

Submission from Douglas Schwartz re: H.R. 6313

**Contradictions in statements by state employees regarding raw milk:**

Feb. 24, 2008 NY Times: "**Mr. Kasacek** said that inspectors have rarely found problems [with raw milk] and that there have been no milk-related illnesses or outbreaks."

Jan. 19, 2009 Norwich Bulletin: "**Kasacek** said increased regulations on raw milk has long been a department initiative. Twice since 1991, the department has proposed legislation that would ban raw milk, **Sherman** said."

March 4, 1994 hearing: My name is **Dr. Bruce Sherman**. I am a veterinarian and I am Director of the Bureau of Regulation and Inspection for the Department of Agriculture. . . . **I think it would be unworkable to sample these herds on any more frequent basis than what is currently done. It is a costly procedure** and what it gives us is a snapshot of what is going on on that farm and in that milk at that particular time that the farm is inspected and the milk is sampled.

Jan. 19, 2009 Norwich Bulletin:

March 4, 1994 hearing: **PAUL SCHUR, M.P.H.** - If the producers are doing everything according to the way they should, if their herds are healthy, then we aren't going to see disease associated with raw milk.

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**Statements on raw milk by state legislators, March 4, 1994 hearing:**

**JACK TIFFANY:** Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Jack Tiffany, a dairy farmer from Lyme. . . . I'm not in favor of the portion of the bill [that] outlaws the sale of raw milk. I believe you've heard adequate testimony on that this morning. . . .

**SEN. DAILY:** Well, I would just like to note that Representative Tiffany is one of my most respected and well known constituents and I would be paying particular attention to what he had to say to us.

**REP. PISCOPO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick comment. I don't even think I need an answer because we've gone through this a few times already on raw milk, but you mentioned, Commissioner, that you have a bottle of raw milk in your refrigerator. It also happens that I have a bottle of raw milk from the same farmer in my refrigerator, I think, it's a local farm, and I love it and I really like it and **I just do not understand the department's stand on limiting that choice to our children or our children's children** to phase out raw milk over the next few years. I'm having a hard time with the logic. I mean you trust the farm and you have it in your refrigerator and so do I, so just a comment for the record. **I don't understand why this is before us.**

**REP. MADDOX:** My question is this. You present to me what I consider an intellectual paradox. It might (inaudible) that there is a major health threat, then I guess I better stop drinking raw milk that I have drank for 34 years, but you are saying but it's okay to allow the 12 people who are producing it to continue to produce. Now, if there is a major health threat to the consumers in the State of Connecticut wouldn't it intellectually make more sense then to just go ban the sale right across the board? . . . I think that that, and with the individuals that I know who produce milk in the state, that they have an absolute vested interest. I mean dairy farming is a seven day week, 365 day a year proposition and some farms, I guess, milking three times a day, so it's almost 24 hours a day then to do that. That they have made that type of investment and commitment, I would think they're there to meet the standards. Now your department's job or the Department of Agriculture's job is to ensure that we might have one or two people out there that aren't living up to par or cutting corners or whatever. You're telling me that in the last ten years we've had two cases in which the people went to the hospital. **I almost find out it outrageous that this legislature is even listening to this. Probably today, how many people will die of AIDS or something like that? I mean, by comparison, what your department has to deal with for disease, the sale of raw milk has got to be at the absolute bottom of the health risks facing the residents of the State of Connecticut.**

**REP. PRELLI:** I also have to just agree with Representative Maddox and his statements. **I have family members who have lived on raw milk their whole life and never had a problem.** I think

you are also going to see...I also think that we will see the 300 dairy farms in the State of Connecticut, also 300 families, at least 300 families drinking raw milk in the State of Connecticut, so I think this is a **rather drastic step for a limited situation**. Thank you.

**Statements on raw milk by state legislators, February 15, 2002 hearing:**

**SENATOR RORABACK:** Thank you Madame Chair, . . . I'm here really to follow-up on Representative Stratton's questions about the extent to which is a matter of public policy in this state. Is that our goal to be guarantors of the public health, or is it our goal and responsibility to ensure that the public is warned of the risk that they're assuming when they choose to ingest raw milk? And Madame Chair, I know there are a number of people that have become very acclimated to consuming raw milk on a regular basis happily, heretofore, without incident, largely without incident. And I guess I would urge members of the Committee to give a lot of thought to requiring that we, as government, **make sure that all consumers are warned rather than outright prohibiting a practice which many people find wholesome**.

**REP. BACKER:** Thank you Madame Chair. I have more of a statement. I have a little experience in labeling foods. I've served on a national committee of microbiological criteria for foods, as well as for seafoods and other things, and what we found is there does seem to be a movement on the part of government to take away choices from people on what they eat whether it's raw oysters or raw milk or other things. My sense is that what we came down with on the oyster issue was to label the box. And why the box is labeled for that infinitesimal amount of people that really can't eat raw oysters is to make them an informed consumer. And it would seem to me that since there's so few outbreaks in Connecticut, although I know we had a rash of them, that raw milk is not normally injurious to the people who drink it. . . . So, I mean we have a parallel in the oyster industry. We've had to deal with that for years and years and years, and we finally came up with the idea -- **let's just tell the people who have liver disease not to eat these**. Thank you.

**REP. STRATTON:** I think we must be an amazing crew in this committee. **I, too, and my children, grew up on raw milk** and the number of people on this committee -- I mean, this gives you some sense of where the committee might be headed.

