Protect the Public’s Health
From the Sale of Unpasteurized Raw Milk

Background:
Pasteurization is the process of heating milk to a high enough temperature for a long enough time to kill any disease-causing bacteria contained in the milk. Numerous dietary studies show that the nutritional effects of pasteurization are minimal while the health risks posed by consuming raw milk are real. Raw milk and its products provide an ideal environment in which bacteria can grow.

From 1993 to 2006, 69 outbreaks of human infections resulting from consumption of raw milk were reported in the U.S. (5 outbreaks per year). These outbreaks resulted in a total of 1,505 illnesses, 185 hospitalizations and 2 deaths. In the first 8 months of 2010, the consumption of raw milk sickened 103 Americans in 10 states. Iowans have become ill after consuming raw milk that was donated for special events:

- **Jones County** (2004) - 30 people attending a dinner became ill with diarrhea and chills after consuming raw milk contaminated with *Campylobacter* bacteria.
- **Lyon County** (2005) - 31 people attending a fundraiser became ill after consuming raw milk contaminated with *Campylobacter* bacteria.

The Iowa Public Health Association joins the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in supporting evidence-based public policy that protects the health of Iowans through the pasteurization of milk.

Policy Recommendation:
- Continue to support evidence-based public policy that protects the health of Iowans through the pasteurization of milk.

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The strength of a community rests on its capacity to effectively deliver public health services to its citizens.

10 Essential Public Health Services

1. **Monitor** the health status to identify community health problems.
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards within the community.
3. **Inform, educate and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Iowa Public Health Association
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