

## **Breast Milk Sale**

I attended the Michigan House Health Policy Committee hearing on September 6 on bills that would provide consumer protection and regulation of commercial human breast milk sales, especially over the Internet. The bills are sponsored by Michigan State Representatives Erika Geiss and George Darany. It appears that the bills will have another hearing and possibly a vote in lame duck session. AAUW does not have national policy on regulating breast milk. Testimony from Michigan Department of Agriculture reveals it approached the issue from its experience testing cow milk. There are public health and safety issues.

Michigan Breastfeeding Network testified in support of the bills so that breast milk is collected safely and ethically. CDC recommends breast milk for the first year of a baby's life to reduce infant mortality.

Some Republicans on the Committee expressed skepticism about regulating breast milk when there are no known statistics regarding deaths or disease from contaminated breast milk sold over the Internet. These sales bypass milk banks, which do test breast milk before its distribution. Expectant mothers and bodybuilders are buying unregulated breast milk on Craig's List and through Facebook groups.

A bioscience testing company testified in favor, saying it would protect the human milk supply. Viruses and diseases can be passed. No data is available because it is an unregulated industry. They test donors' blood and DNA before supplying it to hospitals to feed preemies.

[HB 4206](#) (Rep. Geiss) Health; other; human breast milk banks, companies, and cooperatives; regulate.

[HB 4691](#) (Rep. Geiss) Health; other; Internet sale of human breast milk; prohibit.

[HB 5547](#) (Rep. Darany) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for crimes involving the provision of raw human milk for human consumption; provide for.

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