

VICFA 2017 Lobby Day-

HB 2030 Points

1. Freedom of food choice should be legal. Virginia consumers are denied raw milk, homemade pies, on-farm processed meat (less stress for the animal), and a host of nutrient dense heritage foods produced by talented home cooks.
2. The freedom to opt out of government-licensed food is as important as the freedom to opt out of government-licensed medicine or education.
3. Selling food does not make it harmful. So far, Virginia allows complete freedom for food items to be given away. If unregulated food is as inherently unsafe as bureaucrats and industrial agriculture representatives allege, donated food for community events should be prohibited as well.
4. Freedom from licensure is granted to small components of other heavily regulated industries e.g. elder care, child care, home education. Recognizing the inherent accountability in face to face relationship based commerce and small scale transactions enjoys legal precedent and common sense.
5. Government-licensed food has a questionable track record. Government approved industrial food contains approved "safe" levels of pesticides and herbicide residues, plus GMO ingredients, MSG, and rBGH, and people want a local alternative. Even government inspected organic food has been subjected to massive recalls, due to the packing plant canning the same vegetables for many brands. It is kept quiet.
6. Decentralized and locally based food systems are less vulnerable to bioterrorism. A centralized system of massive industrial farms, with food traveling back and forth across the country, is inherently weak and susceptible to contamination on a huge scale.
7. Community based commerce stimulates local economies. Dollars stay local and support viable farm and home based businesses, and provide superior nutrition for those who seek out local artisan foods.
8. Add your own personal story. Explain why you are happy to buy from a person whose food is not "government approved" or what you are wanting to be able to buy and why.