

**HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE:
RESTAURANTEURS NEED TO URGE SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS AMENDMENTS FOR
CONTINUED VIABILITY**

Dear Member:

Throughout the health care debate, we've been committed to providing you with the most up-to-date and relevant information as it applies to your business.

On Christmas Eve, the Senate passed its health care reform bill 60-39. As debate continues and the conference process between the House and Senate bills begins, where differences in the two bills are addressed, it's critical that every restaurateur, supplier and industry partner weigh-in to help protect the industry provisions we've fought hard to include in the Senate legislation.

The bill currently being considered by the Senate contains 3 key provisions that must be maintained in the final bill:

- **The part-time worker exemption** is critical because it addresses the nature of our business models and takes into account the economic realities facing the industry.
- **The small business exemptions** which are essential because the majority of the industry is defined as a small business.
- **ERISA preservation** is important because it allows larger, multi-state employers to continue to offer coverage.

While these provisions go a long way toward protecting our industry, further adjustments are needed in the final bill to ensure our continued viability.

We need your help to urge Leadership in both the House and Senate to support and include the following amendments in the final bill:

- **Amendment No. 3011 - A 90-day waiting period for new hires.** This will allow restaurants to provide committed full-time employees the highest quality benefits at the most affordable price. Senator's Landrieu (D-LA) and Shaheen (D-NH) introduced this Amendment and we need to ensure it's in the final bill.
- **Amendment No. 3112 - A modified the definition of full-time employee to 390 hours per calendar quarter (13 weeks) instead of the current 30 hours per week on average, with respect to any month.** The modified definition takes into account fluctuations in hours an employee works, and would help reduce the impact of employer requirements for restaurateurs like me. Senator Cantwell (D-WA) introduced this Amendment and we need to ensure it is in the final bill.

While the health care reform package currently before the Senate demonstrates meaningful progress toward protecting jobs and small businesses , we need to ensure that the final bill improves job creation and entrepreneurship, and does not weaken the improvements included in the Senate bill.

The Industry Needs Your Help!

- 1. Email Your Member of Congress:** If you have not already done so, visit www.RestaurantHealthCareReformInfo.com to send an email to your personal elected officials. You can also read up on the industry's economic facts and learn more about our 5 key industry provisions.
- 2. Call Your Member of Congress:** You can find your Member's contact information on www.RestaurantHealthCareReformInfo.com
- 3. Schedule In-District Meetings with Your Senator's Office.** You can find your Member's district contact information on www.RestaurantHealthCareReformInfo.com