



November 12, 2020

Chima Enyia
Executive Director
Illinois Liquor Control Commission
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 7-801
Chicago, IL 60601

Director Enyia,

On behalf of the Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA), I am requesting that the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) take action to create regulatory relief for Illinois' restaurants and bars that have been shut down for indoor service. The following regulatory actions would greatly benefit hospitality operators at a time when they need it most:

- Allow distributors to accept unopened product from retailers received between September 1 and October 31, 2020.
- Extend the period in which licensed distributors and licensed retailers may enter into payment plans to pay an existing debt on a sale or sales of wine and spirits.
- Allowing for credit card payments between retailers and wine and spirits distributors.

Liquor-licensed establishments did not anticipate such rapid mitigations to take effect over the past few weeks. As a result, restaurants and bars have a large quantity of product that they will be unable to sell at their establishments. Allowing for retailers to return unopened product to distributors, as the ILCC previously allowed in March and April, would be of tremendous help to operators that are struggling to keep their doors open.

Retailers also need to be afforded an extended opportunity to enter into payment plans on existing debt beyond the previously-established period of February 15 to May 1, 2020. Such an expanded allowance will be crucial to ensure that hundreds of retailers do not become delinquent on their payments. Finally, modernizing payments through credit card transactions for wine and spirits sales will help retailers by adding needed flexibility, access to more cash on hand, improved contactless transactions, and more.

We appreciate the ILCC's readiness to work with the industry throughout the pandemic, and we hope that you will issue these regulations that will benefit restaurants and bars that are desperately in need of assistance. Thank you for your consideration, and we stand ready to assist as you need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Toia".

Sam Toia
President & CEO
Illinois Restaurant Association