



November 13, 2020

The Honorable Rodney Davis
U.S. Representative
13th District, State of Illinois
Longworth House Office Building
Room 1740
Washington, DC 20515-1313

Congressman Davis,

On behalf of the Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA) and the 24,000+ eating and drinking establishments in our state, I'm reaching out to urgently call on Congress to pass a broad-based relief package for restaurants. Due to the latest mitigation measures imposed on Illinois restaurants, we are currently facing the impending destruction of Illinois' restaurant industry - our state's largest private employer.

Illinois is the only state across the country that has shut down indoor service entirely at restaurants.

We have repeatedly called on the state of Illinois to take a more pragmatic approach to their mitigation strategy - one that will allow for limited indoor service at restaurants. Even before the latest shutdown, nearly 70% of Illinois restaurant operators did not expect to be in business in the next six months without additional federal aid. Without the ability to safely serve diners inside, there are simply no options left for our struggling restaurant community and the people they employ. Recovery has gone from a temporary challenge to a seemingly permanent industry disruption.

Please do whatever is in your power to secure the passage into law of the following recovery programs:

- **Create a Restaurant Recovery Fund** for structured relief to help restaurants get the liquidity they need, adapt, rehire and eventually reopen.
 - This includes passage of the RESTAURANTS Act proposed by the Senate.
- **Build on the success of PPP** by enacting a second round of application eligibility to initial eight-week loan recipients and make other changes to help extend and sustain this successful program.
- **Expand the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC)** to help restaurants get support after a PPP loan has run out.
- **Improve Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)** by replenishing funding for EIDLs and advance grants to support businesses with major revenue reductions due to COVID-19.
- Other [recovery programs](#) proposed by the National Restaurant Association's Blueprint for Revival.

The IRA remains ready and willing to collaborate with you and your team on solutions for restaurants, the people they employ, and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Sam Toia
President & CEO
Illinois Restaurant Association