

OHIO RESTAURANT



ASSOCIATIONSM

1525 Bethel Road, Suite 201
Columbus, OH 43220-2054

February 14, 2017

The Honorable John Eklund, Chairman
Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee
Statehouse, Rm. 143
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SB 264 Sales Tax Holiday

Dear Chairman Eklund:

Last year, the General Assembly passed SB 243 known as the sales tax holiday bill. The tax holiday exempted clothes priced up to \$75, and school supplies and instruction materials priced up to \$20 from sales tax.

Reducing taxes in one of the most obvious tools available from policy makers to help people stretch their budgets. We have already seen last year's sales tax holiday results and it certainly helped Ohioans. Unfortunately, last year's sales tax holiday was only a temporary pilot program. This year's SB 9 would preserve this sales tax holiday for an additional year. The current sales tax holiday bill is a revenue neutral means for state government to reduce consumer taxes and increase economic activity.

As noted in previous testimony, 18 other states have sales tax holidays, and their track record convinces us that making Ohio sales tax holiday permanent will continue to grow and promote retailers and consumers anticipate it. The Ohio Restaurant Association encourages you to support SB 9.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Rosato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Rosato
Director of Government Affairs