



May 15, 2020

Senator Matt Huffman  
1 Capitol Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Huffman,

On behalf of Ohio's 23,000 restaurant and foodservice locations and Ohio's 585,000 restaurant and foodservice employees, I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 308. In light of the public health and economic crisis wrought on our state by the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation is a necessary step as Ohio's economy reopens.

Ohio's restaurants have always been leaders in food, employee, and guest safety, and are committed to reopening our dining rooms and patios safely to feed our communities, put hundreds of thousands of restaurant workers back to work, and help revive Ohio's economic engine. 51% of the US food dollar is now spent at restaurants, making restaurants not just an essential part of our economy, but essential to feeding America.

Our members have been significant targets of superfluous litigation in the past, and are concerned about the threat of potential litigation, despite all of the health and safety efforts they are adhering to, as outlined in our [Ohio Restaurant Promise](#). This legislation will help restaurants and all Ohio businesses more confidently take all of the necessary steps to reopen and operate safely.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this important and appropriate liability protection legislation, which will be vital to the success of not only restaurants, but all Ohio businesses and ultimately the ability of our economy to come back, put Ohioans to work, and put our state back on solid financial footing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Tod Bowen with any questions regarding Ohio's restaurants related to this important legislation and our commitment to safely serving our guests, even while the coronavirus remains a reality in our lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barker".

John Barker  
President and CEO