



Ohio Restaurant Association Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 16

June 20, 2023

Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee:

On behalf of Ohio's 23,676 restaurant and foodservice locations and Ohio's 520,000 restaurant and foodservice employees, the Ohio Restaurant Association appreciates the opportunity to support S.B. 16 and thanks Senator Wilson for sponsoring this important and timely legislation.

S.B. 16 simply extends the immunity provided to a person who donates perishable food to a nonprofit organization to include donations to a nonprofit that charges individuals an amount to cover food handling costs, rather than limiting the immunity only with respect to donations to a nonprofit that does not charge for the food as in current law.

One amazing organization we are aware of that will benefit from this legislation is [La Soupe](#). La Soupe operates under a Rescue – Transform – Share model, rescuing perishables that would otherwise be wasted, utilizing chefs to transform this food into healthy soups and meals, and then sharing via more than 160 share partners that feed food insecure individuals and families. La Soupe also operates a storefront that offers these transformed meals at a nominal cost (always no more than incorporates the cost of handling the perishable food).

Rescuing, transforming, and sharing perishable food is a worthy endeavor that both eliminates food waste and provides excellent food to those in need. This legislation that extends immunity from civil liability in these instances will encourage food donors and potential donors (including restaurants, caterers, grocers, farms and others) to expand their efforts to share what would otherwise be wasted food by eliminating the potential liability roadblock.

This will not only benefit La Soupe but will encourage others who operate or would operate under similar models. Efforts to stem food waste while feeding hungry Ohioans should be encouraged and this legislation is an important piece of this becoming a more common practice.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support this timely legislation and for all you are doing to help Ohio's hospitality businesses continue to feed Ohioans, provide robust employment and career opportunities, and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities throughout Ohio.

Laura Morrison
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Ohio Restaurant Association