CONNECTICUT’S $8.2 BILLION RESTAURANT ECONOMY IS AT RISK

Over 75% of Connecticut’s 8,297 eating and drinking locations are in danger of closing permanently without The RESTAURANTS Act

THE RESTAURANTS ACT WOULD GENERATE $2.3 BILLION ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR CONNECTICUT

● Food services account for 7.1% of all employment in Connecticut.

● Food services projected to contribute 9,239 new Connecticuter jobs from 2016 to 2026.

● The RESTAURANTS Act would galvanize Connecticut’s tourism industry, encouraging travelers to eat in Connecticut’s establishments and spend money on lodging, other tourist attractions, and retail, generating $1 billion.

● The RESTAURANTS Act would provide $181 million in benefits to countless other bakers, fishermen, butchers, and, of course, Connecticut’s 5,240 small farms.

WITHOUT HELP FOR INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS, CONNECTICUT’S ECONOMY WILL SUFFER

● An estimated 76% of eateries are independently owned.

● Independent restaurants rely far less on pickup and drive through service. Fine and casual dining have declined 85% and 65% respectively, while fast-food has only decreased 21%. National chains like Domino’s, Pizza Hut, Papa John’s, Raising Cane’s, and Taco Bell have hired during this time.

● Nearly 65% of the revenue from local independent restaurants recirculates in the local economy compared to about 30% for chain restaurants.

THE RESTAURANTS ACT WOULD HELP PROTECT 157,900 CONNECTICUTER JOBS

● Since the beginning of March, the leisure and hospitality industry has accounted for 28% of all jobs lost in Connecticut.

● Keeping many of Connecticut’s 157,900 leisure and hospitality workers employed would save Connecticut $323 million in unemployment benefits and insurance taxes.

3 Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57. This number represents the total benefits generated by the RESTAURANTS ACT for the state of Connecticut. It excludes dollars attributed to Federal benefit.
6 Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57.
7 Ibid, 57 and 11.
8 Ibid, page 3.
10 Ibid, page 22.
13 Connecticut Economy at a Glance.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid; Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, 57.
• Nationwide, over 2.7 million leisure and hospitality workers are unemployed right now, more than any other industry. Unemployment in leisure and hospitality is over 277% higher than it was at the same time last year.\textsuperscript{16}

• The RESTAURANTS Act would reduce the national unemployment rate by an estimated 2.4%, a result of saving the industry that has been hit hardest by job losses from the outset of this pandemic.\textsuperscript{17}

THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM DID NOT PROVIDE THE RELIEF NECESSARY FOR RESTAURANTS TO RECOVER

• Restaurants and accommodations received less than $43 billion from the Paycheck Protection Program, despite contributing over five times that in losses to our GDP.\textsuperscript{18}

• Food services and drinking places reported a 18.8% unemployment rate in August – more than double the nation’s aggregate unemployment rate of 8.5%.\textsuperscript{19}

• An estimated 1 in 3 American restaurants will close by year end without Congressional support. An estimated 8,000 restaurants have already shuttered so far this year.\textsuperscript{20}

CONGRESS CAN SAVE 16 MILLION JOBS NATIONWIDE AND GENERATE UP TO $271 BILLION IN TWO YEARS BY PASSING THE RESTAURANTS ACT.\textsuperscript{21}

• Independent restaurants and bars directly employ 11 million workers nationwide. Additionally, 5 million more work in the industry’s vast supply chains and rely on eating and drinking places to sustain their livelihoods.\textsuperscript{22} Without direct aid, all of these jobs are in danger of vanishing permanently.

• Restaurants have become tourist destinations domestically and internationally. One study found that 72% of all travelers choose their destination based on food and drink offering.\textsuperscript{23} Tourists also spend money on travel, housing, and retail.

• The loss of economic activity due to culinary travelers is estimated to be up to $141 billion.\textsuperscript{24}

• Restaurants are hubs of minority employment and advancement. Sixty percent of all chefs nationwide are minorities. Minorities also make up 53% of bussers, runners, baristas, prep-cooks, dishwashers and kitchen porters. Restaurants also employ more minority employee-managers than any other industry.\textsuperscript{25}

• Over half of all restaurant workers are women, and restaurants employ over one million single mothers.\textsuperscript{26}

• Restaurants generate middle class jobs at a rate three times faster than the economy.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{16} Bureau of Labor Statistics. \\
\textsuperscript{17} Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. 1. \\
\textsuperscript{18} Small Business Administration PPP Report; US Commerce Report Q2. \\
\textsuperscript{19} Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Report. \\
\textsuperscript{20} One – Third of US Restaurants Face Permanent Closure This Year. \\
\textsuperscript{21} Independent Restaurants Are a Nexus of Small Businesses in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity That Is at Risk of Being Lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. \\
\textsuperscript{22} Ibid, 1, 2. \\
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid, 43. \\
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid, 45. \\
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid, 9. \\
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid, 8. \\
\textsuperscript{27} Middle-class jobs are growing rapidly in restaurants, National Restaurant Association.