

Pennsylvania Restaurant Association

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March 15, 2011

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

SUBJECT: Support for HB 906 and SB 731

Since 1937, the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association (PRA) has served to enhance and nurture the growth and development of Pennsylvania's restaurant and foodservice industry. For nearly 75 years, restaurateurs and licensees who have provided good jobs for Pennsylvanians and are a key contributor to Pennsylvania's economy have looked to the PRA for information and advice, legislative advocacy, money saving programs, and networking opportunities with their peers in the industry.

As you know, there are many state statutes and regulations that impact our members and our industry – from small family-owned restaurants, licensed establishments, other foodservice outlets and national and international chain restaurants. In fact, we are among the largest and most regulated industries in Pennsylvania.

There are many in the hospitality industry whose businesses have been negatively impacted because of what some argue is an unlevel playing field. This year the legislature has an opportunity to pass legislation that represents a positive step forward for licensees across the state, while at the same time raising much-needed new revenue for the Commonwealth.

The PRA endorses House Bill 906 and SB 731, which would modernize the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act to boost the prize limits on these games especially for the organizations that rely on them as fundraising tools. And, most importantly it would include our industry and it would enable the state's independently owned restaurants, licensees and small taverns to offer small games of chance to their patrons for the very first time.

Unlike legislation that was recently passed, which helps only civic organizations, giving restaurants and taverns the opportunity to offer small games of chance does three things:

- It raises new revenue for the state by a new fee that is imposed on what restaurants and taverns raise
- It helps charities, such as fire companies, community recreational programs, and other nonprofits because taverns would be required to designate where some of their proceeds are directed

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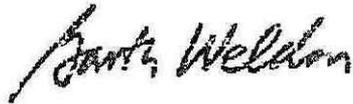
- It helps businesses by allowing them to keep a portion of what they raise to help them keep or expand staff; meet the ever-rising cost of doing business; and otherwise compete on a more level playing field with clubs and social organizations

Both the House and Senate bills have strong bipartisan support and deserve not only a fair hearing by the appropriate committees, but ultimately, the full support of our legislators.

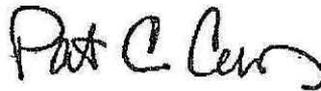
On behalf of the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association, we respectfully urge you to pass this legislation as soon as possible in 2011.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,



Garth Weldon
Chairman of the Board



Patrick C. Conway
President & CEO