

City of Allentown

RESOLUTION

R154-2020

Introduced by City Council and the Administration on December 21, 2020

A Resolution Urging Congress to Pass the Restaurants Act – legislation that would provide support and relief for people/businesses drastically impacted under the Covid Crisis

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, The City of Allentown, Allentown City Council and Office of Community and Economic Development are dedicated and committed to making Allentown a thriving and vibrant city with a supportive environment for businesses; and

WHEREAS, Allentown's diverse restaurants, bars, and eateries are integral to the city's revitalization, unique appeal and employment for many hardworking families; and

WHEREAS, the restaurant industry has been uniquely devastated by the impacts of Covid-19 mitigation efforts such as capacity limits, social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders which have significantly reduced demand; and

WHEREAS, Allentown's restauranters have attempted to weather the financial impact of the pandemic, but our city has witnessed the closure of many establishments including Ritz Barbeque, The Bayleaf, Nosh as well as many other dining establishments; and

WHEREAS, without further financial assistance many restaurants, bars and eateries fear that the continuation and strengthening of mitigation efforts during the winter months will result in the permanent closure of their establishments; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 7197, the RESTAURANTS Act would establish a \$120 billion restaurant revitalization fund at the Department of Treasury that would be available to food service or drinking establishments that are not publicly traded or part of a chain with 20 or more locations doing business under the same name. The first 14 days of the grant's availability is only available to restaurants with annual revenues of \$1.5 million or fewer, ensuring that the smallest restaurants are prioritized; and

WHEREAS, this would benefit Allentown's restaurants and bars as a significant amount fit this criterion. Additionally, the legislation includes administrative funding toward outreach and engagement to restaurants owned and operated by women, Veterans, and people of color; and

WHEREAS, Congress has demonstrated the political resolve to pass trillions of dollars of relief to many sectors of the economy, yet small restaurants and bars have not been a recipient of any targeted relief. Our city's restaurants and bars play a critical part in our local economy from the individuals they employ and the

supply chains they touch. In their time of need, we must advocate on their behalf to ensure our federal government does its part to financially support this key industry currently in jeopardy of being lost.

Be, It Therefore Resolved, Allentown City Council does hereby urge the United States Congress and President of the United States to immediately pass the Restaurants Act in order to prevent the imminent closure of our city and nation's restaurants, eateries and bars and protect their employees from the financial devastation of losing their employment.