



## HOUSE BILL 1014

### Small Business COVID-19 Relief Act of 2021

February 24, 2021

#### Position: FWA

Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* supports House Bill 1014, which would provide additional assistance to restaurant/foodservice businesses that continue to struggle to recover from the economic impact of the COVID pandemic.

However, we respectfully request an amendment to this bill to allow a restaurant/foodservice business (including caterers) to qualify for the loans, grants and tax deduction provided in the bill if they are under the established employee thresholds per physical location if using a unique employer identification number (EIN).

This would be similar to the U.S. Small Business Administration rules for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans that allow restaurants to qualify for separate loans by physical location if using a unique EIN. This recognizes that the restaurant/foodservice industry has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and should not be subject to typical affiliation rules if operating as a separate legal business entity. This will provide assistance to more struggling restaurant/foodservice businesses and the jobs they provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melvin R. Thompson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Melvin R. Thompson  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs and Public Policy