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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 22, 2020

Chairman Tim Holden
Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
102 Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124

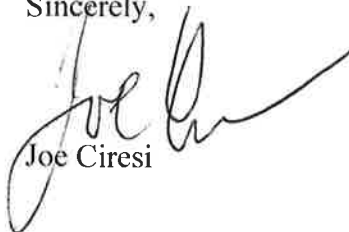
Dear Chairman Holden,

It is undeniable that 2020 has been a difficult year for Pennsylvania's restaurants and bars, foundations of our communities and an important sector of our economy. At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic remains a very serious threat, it is clear that our restaurants need additional support to help cope with the loss of revenue they are experiencing. To provide relief for over 16,000 Pennsylvania businesses, I urge the Board to support Governor Tom Wolf's proposal and waive liquor license fees through 2021.

In the absence of additional action by the General Assembly to provide relief, despite introduced bipartisan legislation, our Commonwealth needs to look for innovative ways to support the bar and restaurant industry without compromising our public health and commitment to defending lives and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. Through waiving liquor license fees, the Liquor Control Board has the ability to provide \$20 million in direct relief to a struggling industry.

While I look forward to continuing to encourage the Governor and legislative leadership to support broader support for bars and restaurants, including my legislation to provide \$100 million in pandemic grant funding to small "mom and pop" bars, restaurants, and catering and banquet halls, I encourage the Board to join us in working towards our shared goal of helping Pennsylvanians in need. Thank you very much for considering this request, and I hope that the Board will take action on this at an upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,


Joe Ciresi