



MISSOURI Restaurant News

August 28, 2020

NRA & MRA Pressing Congress for Next Relief Bill

The National Restaurant Association's Public Affairs team continues advocacy efforts to ensure that Congress is aware of the dire challenges the restaurant still faces and the continuing need for relief and support described in the Association's latest [Blueprint for Restaurant Revival](#).

The MRA continues to echo the importance of the Blueprint and the critical need for a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program with an eligibility threshold of 20% loss in revenues for businesses. MRA remains in communication with our Missouri members of Congress and their staffs, expressing our frustration with the impasse in Washington and the [importance of the restaurant industry](#).

Congress is not expected to resume discussion of the next round of COVID-19 relief until after the Labor Day holiday. Here's a link to an interesting read on [ten items we might see in the next relief package](#).

The Independent Restaurant Coalition Wants to Eliminate Tip Credits

By Rick Berman and Mike Saltsman, [Employment Policies Institute](#)

In a moving 30-second ad voiced by Morgan Freeman, the Independent Restaurant Coalition (IRC) – a new advocacy group launched by high-profile chefs – calls on Congress to enact legislation to help save restaurants. It's a great commercial, and obviously a worthy cause.

But any organization that's around long enough is subject to "mission creep"--where new goals unconnected to the founding mission are introduced. Unfortunately, IRC's mission creep has occurred in just the few months since its launch.

· Last Wednesday, the following appeared on IRC's Twitter account: *"The road to a better future for the restaurant industry runs through independent restaurants-- independent in every way from the low-road corporate chain lobbies that have worked to suppress worker wages and repress justice....saving independent restaurants is the essential 1st step in a high-road restaurant revolution that includes ending the legacy of*



slavery that is the subminimum wage for tipped workers..."

- This comment was retweeted from the Restaurant Opportunities Center, whose mission is the elimination of tip credits. (For those of you unfamiliar with ROC, it has a two-decade track record of viciously attacking and demonizing the restaurant industry.)
- The IRC's apparent endorsement of this statement was followed by Danny Meyer, Tom Colicchio, and David Chang signing a letter to NY Gov. Cuomo calling on him to eliminate the tip credit. This comes after the industry and restaurant workers fought a successful battle for two years to save New York's tip credit.
- The IRC's tweet and the chefs' letter to Cuomo are an insult to the millions of restaurant employees and operators who support the current system. They're also a guaranteed way to make sure thousands of restaurants never recover; if a steep COVID-related drop in sales isn't enough, imagine what a 600 percent increase in the cash wage would do.
- Meyer, Colicchio and Chang can run their own restaurants anyway they think best. The high-end restaurants they operate have pricing power, and they will be in better shape than most if no-tipping policies and higher menu prices result from their actions. (Meyer has already tried to eliminate tipping and walked it back after his staff revolted.) But they need to stop falsely representing the interests of other operators.
- They have no idea how many restaurants and employees would be hurt by their presumption to know better. They've clearly spent little time reflecting on this in conversation with the countless restaurant workers who've spoken out in support of the tip credit.
- If these operators want to get in the law-making business, they should run for office-- rather than spending time running down their competition.



Please Take the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Restaurant Impact Survey

The National Restaurant Association is collecting information on the economic impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Please be assured that all information provided is anonymous and strictly confidential. If you are a restaurant operator with multiple restaurants in your organization, please consider completing a separate survey for each location. This will help provide us with data to analyze the impact on a state level. If you wish to only complete one survey, please choose your primary restaurant for this survey.

- [Click here](#)

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Restaurant Association