Ohio Restaurant Association thanks Representative LaRe and Representative Swearingen for their introduction of the Business Expansion and Safety Act

April 20, 2020

“On behalf of Ohio’s 23,000 restaurant and foodservice locations and Ohio’s 585,000 restaurant and foodservice employees, the Ohio Restaurant Association thanks Representative Jeff LaRe and Representative D.J. Swearingen (and the many Cosponsors who have already joined their efforts) for introducing HB 669, the Business Expansion and Safety Act. In light of the public health and economic crisis wrought on our state by the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation is an important and necessary step as Ohio’s economy reopens.

Ohio’s restaurants are the cornerstones of our communities, and our restaurants and our communities have been devastated by this ongoing crisis. Even as restaurants begin to reopen, the guidelines they will be operating under and a dining public that in many instances remains nervous, will lead to a slow recovery. This legislation recognizes these important facts and will give restaurants a better chance to make it through this crisis, emerge strong on the other side, and come back vigorously to help revive Ohio’s economic engine and strengthen our communities. 51% of the US food dollar is now spent at restaurants, making restaurants not just an essential part of our economy, but essential to feeding our state and our country.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this important and appropriate Business Expansion and Safety legislation, which will be vital to the success of restaurants and the communities we serve. Together we can revive our economy, serve our communities, put Ohioans back to work, and put our state back on solid financial footing.”

John Barker, President and CEO of the Ohio Restaurant Association

“As a small business operator, I appreciate the efforts of Representatives LaRe and Swearingen to give us more flexibility to serve our customers and our community. This legislation will make a positive difference for my business, the people I employ, and the community we serve. Thank You!”

Brody Danner, Owner of the Submarine House, Dayton, Ohio