

To: NRA Board of Directors

Cc: NRAEF Board of Trustees
SRA Executives

From: Mike Gibbons

Date: March 15, 2010

Subject: Health Care Reform Update

Media reports over the weekend confirmed our information on the ground that the House Speaker sent a memo to members of Congress warning them to expect a health care vote in the next week. The President has delayed his overseas trip by at least 3-4 days to work with Congress on the health care legislation. The White House and the Democratic leaders in Congress are working toward a final vote on this issue.

As you know, we would prefer that Congress not enact a bill that imposes a burden on restaurateurs to provide health care coverage. We opposed the House-passed bill last summer and worked tirelessly to make five significant improvements in the Senate passed version (part-time worker exemption, definition of a part-time worker, ERISA, penalty-free waiting period, small business exemption) given that enactment of a bill was very likely. Only by keeping our seat at the table last year were we able to make improvements that were vital to our industry. They may not be reported on the front pages of the health care debate, but they will help to mitigate some of the costs to the restaurant industry. I have instructed the staff to continue to push for all of the principles included in the position paper (posted to www.restauranthealthcarereforminfo.com), including opposing mandates of any kind.

After Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts and the day-long bipartisan televised health care conversation in February, the White House and the Democrats in Congress changed their legislative strategy, but not their resolve to pass some version of health care reform. Given these realities, we have managed our resources, time, energy and assets to provide our industry the maximum protection possible.

Protecting the wide and diverse restaurant industry remains our top priority. In this environment, we have particular challenges to keep the improvements we secured in the Senate version. In fact, last week, as key House Democrats tried to weaken the part-time work provisions, we mobilized an action alert and used other tactics to defend the industry and strengthen our position.

We expect a heavy volume of activity on health care between now and the Easter recess. We will update you on our key priorities and ask for your assistance in helping us protect our industry. We will be hosting conference call updates for you over this period; so we are asking you to keep an eye out for those times and dates. The latest information is at www.restauranthealthcarereforminfo.com.