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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OFFERS RESTAURATEURS TOOL TO NOTIFY EMPLOYEES ABOUT HEALTH CARE MARKETPLACES

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA), in conjunction with the National Restaurant Association, has launched a new tool to help restaurateurs notify employees about new government-run health insurance marketplaces.

The online employee-notification tool, available at Restaurant.org/Notify, is designed to help employers meet an October 1 federal deadline to notify employees about government-run health insurance exchanges. The online tool is available exclusively to National Restaurant Association members, which includes all MRA members, as a benefit of membership.

“As changes begin to unfold under the health care law, it’s vital that restaurateurs stay up-to-date on the requirements and deadlines of the law,” said Brian DeBano, president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association. “The online Notification Tool provides MRA members a useful and free resource to meet the notification deadline. It’s a great member benefit.”

Among other provisions, the health care law creates a new section of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that requires employers to provide existing employees with basic information about exchanges by October 1, including letting employees know they may be eligible for federal tax subsidies to buy health plans through exchanges. The mandate applies to all employers covered by the FLSA. Starting in 2014, employers will be required to provide employees with the FLSA notice within 14 days of hiring, according to the Department of Labor.

Exchanges are set to open in every state, including Michigan, on October 1 to begin offering millions of Americans new options for buying health insurance for 2014.

The Notification Tool offers online registration that guides an employer through the law’s required information process so that all employees can be properly notified when they access the site. Members register to use the tool and create an online portal, which serves as the vehicle to tell employees about exchanges, track employees they’ve notified, and keep on- and offline records to document which employees have received the notice.

The Notification Tool is part of the MRA and National Restaurant Association’s member-only health care reform resources.

The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 390,000 people and creating more than \$13.1 billion in annual sales.

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