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STATEMENT FROM MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION REGARDING PASSAGE OF SENATE BILLS 504-505

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is profoundly disappointed with the unanticipated action today of the Michigan Senate. The surprise addition of Senate Bills 504-505 to the agenda sends a clear message where their priorities lie, and it is definitely not with the constitutionally protected free speech of small business owners.

“Apparently free market principles and the elimination of frivolous government intrusion are no longer priorities of Senate Republicans,” said Brian DeBano, President and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association.

“I will be sure to consult with the caucus the next time my members want to change ketchup brands to make sure they approve,” he added.

The Senate’s action today sent a message that while 49 other states recognize the right to own and use logoed barware items, they believe Michigan’s taxpayer dollars are best used approving barware orders of Michigan’s licensed establishments.

Even more perplexing was that the Senate’s action flies directly in the face of a recent statewide poll by EPIC-MRA noting that 75 percent of Michiganders would actually support changing a law to allow the use of logoed barware items.

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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