

CONNECTICUT
Restaurant
ASSOCIATION

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Testimony Before the General Law Committee

February 26, 2013

HB 6405 An Act Concerning Barroom Partitions

The Connecticut Restaurant Association represents over 500 restaurants and affiliated businesses across the state. Our members range from quick serve to casual to fine dining establishments. The Connecticut hospitality industry employs 145,000 people, making up approximately 9% of the workforce. Restaurants are a driving force in the state's economy and generate tremendous tax revenue.

The Connecticut Restaurant Association is in strong support of House Bill 6405 An Act Concerning Barroom Partitions. Current regulations regarding various aspects of restaurant permitting are antiquated and in the modern design world, sometimes difficult to comply with. Many restaurateurs, in designing their space, are looking to have more open floor plans where patrons have a view of the bar, kitchen and dining room irrespective of where they might be in the restaurant. Erecting five foot walls to separate the dining room from the barroom often doesn't fit into these plans, but due to current regulations, the licensee must adhere to the "effective separation" rule. House Bill 6405 would allow the Department of Consumer Protection to grant exceptions to this regulation, at their discretion.

The Connecticut Restaurant Association supports alcohol education and training for employees of restaurant who are serving alcohol to patrons. We do not believe this bill, were it to become law, would affect a restaurant's ability to continue to operate in a manner that is safe for its patrons, staff and the public.

We urge you to support House Bill 6405. Thank you.
