



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, we strongly support H.R. 3711, the "Legal Workforce Act." I would like to highlight our support for this mark-up, as well as for important legislation with a thoughtful, balanced approach to implementing a major change related to workplace hiring for employers of all sizes.

The National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and food service industry. The industry, predominated by small businesses, is comprised of more than one million restaurant and foodservice outlets employing 14.7 million employees and 10 percent of the U.S. workforce.

We agree on the need for certainty and uniformity regarding the responsibilities employers have under employment verification laws. For several years, the Association has provided input on the best ways to improve the E-verify program. We are appreciative of the bill's sponsor, Rep. Lamar Smith, and the Committee's efforts to think through the challenges of a universal employer verification mandate.

The Legal Workforce Act reaches the right balance - a broad employer verification mandate that is both efficient and workable for businesses of every size under practical real world working conditions. Without the assurances and improvements to the employer verification system found in the Legal Workforce Act, it should not be imposed on businesses.

Thank you for your leadership and careful consideration of this issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Shannon L. Meade
Director, Labor & Workforce Policy

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee