

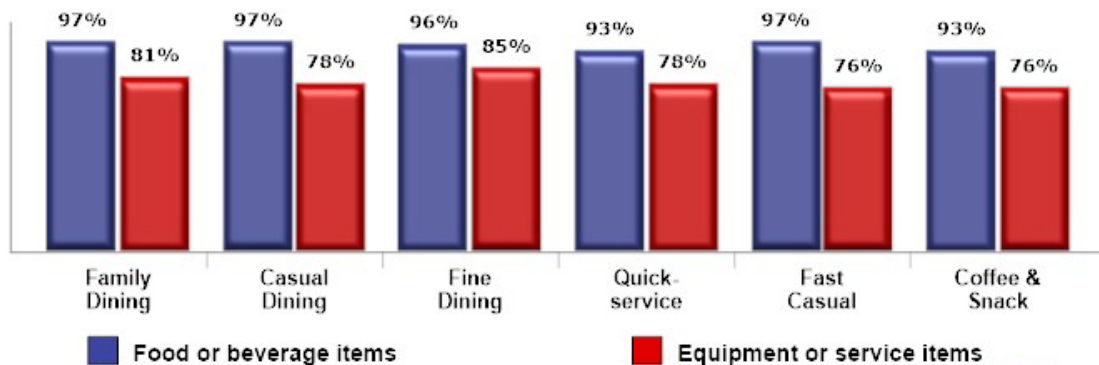
**Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
Supporting Testimony
Senate Bill 493
Scott J. Schneider J.D.
Wednesday March 9, 2022**

Chair and members of the committee, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association supports Senate Bill 493. We have confidence our members know best how to balance their customer’s environmental expectations with those same customer’s desires to be served food in healthy, clean and cost effective methods.

Nationally, The Restaurant industry added 123,700 jobs in February; this is the 14th consecutive month that the industry has added jobs. However, the industry is still 824,000 jobs below pre-pandemic levels.

SB 493 adds value to the Restaurant industry by creating a state-wide uniform standard. Between the struggle to find employees, the dramatic increase in input costs, and supply chain disruptions this bit of certainty helps.

Percent of restaurants that experienced supply delays or shortages of food/beverage items or equipment/service items in recent months



Source: National Restaurant Association, November 2021 survey of 3,000 operators



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Bloomberg recently reported, “The latest hurdle to shipping goods in a world gripped by pandemic-driven supply chain disruptions is a shortage of cardboard boxes, according to one of the world’s biggest makers of the material. The supply chain is “very stretched” and making and shipping high-demand packing materials to customers is expected to remain tough in the first quarter of 2022, International Paper Chief Financial Officer Tim Nicholls said Thursday on an earnings call.”

If the only way for businesses in the State of Kansas can have a predictable, scalable, and cost effective business model around containers is to pass a state-level preemption, then we support that action.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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