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New York State Restaurant Association's Statement Ahead of Public Hearing on NYC's Open Restaurants Program

The following statement can be attributed to Melissa Fleischut, President and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association. The Open Restaurants Program has allowed the expansion of outdoor dining since the start of the pandemic.

"The New York State Restaurant Association fully supports the permanent adoption of the Open Restaurants Program, an example of successful policy amid the economic hardships of the pandemic. More than 12,000 restaurants in New York City have been helped by this program, not to mention the thousands of restaurant jobs saved through the allowance of outdoor dining at New York City establishments. The program provides small business relief that has proven to help restaurants increase revenue, keep doors open and find staff. We are looking forward to continued collaboration with City officials to make the program even better for restaurants, diners and the neighborhoods they are invigorating."

The New York State Restaurant Association's official testimony can be found [here](#).

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