



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

October 6, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 61 (Gabriel) Business pandemic relief
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to **SUPPORT AB 61 (Gabriel)** and respectfully request you sign this measure into law when it reaches your desk. **AB 61** would extend COVID-19 regulatory relief for temporary catering authorized by the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC).

After you issued a statewide stay-at-home order on March 19, 2020, the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) issued the first of many regulatory relief notices to help restaurants crippled by serving only takeout or delivery meals. This relief included the COVID-19 temporary catering authorization, which allows for expanded alcoholic beverage sales and outdoor dining in nontraditional spaces due to indoor dining restrictions. **AB 61** offers much-needed regulatory flexibility for this temporary catering authorization to support restaurants who continue to experience economic challenges from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated small businesses in California, with the restaurant industry facing a wave of temporary and permanent closures. As of December 2020, the National Restaurant Association reports over 110,000 establishments have closed their doors, with 89 percent of full-service restaurants reporting below normal staffing levels and anticipating additional layoffs. As the nation reopens, restaurants must find ways to recover from hundreds of billions of dollars in losses sustained because of the lockdowns and social distancing requirements to stop the spread of coronavirus.

AB 61 empowers local jurisdictions and ABC to provide temporary regulatory relief and flexibility that would facilitate more outdoor dining and take-out and delivery options. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you take action to **SIGN AB 61 (Gabriel)** into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Wunderlich

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, 45th Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange