



## Joint statement on IFA and NRA referendum effort

With the passage of AB 257, the Legislature has abdicated its legislative duties to a fast-food council, which is unaccountable to the public for their policy choices. This council will now have unprecedented power over virtually every aspect of employment standards for an entire industry sector, including the authority to increase the minimum wage for fast food workers by \$6.50 per employee in one year. Economists who have studied this bill estimate that it will raise impacted restaurants' food costs by 20 percent – at a time when California families are dealing with budget-crippling inflation.

Even worse, the bill targets the fast-food sector under the premise it is commonly out of workplace law compliance, even though the state's own data shows a compliance track record that is one of the best in the state. Not surprisingly, the bill also reserves two seats on the council for representatives of advocates for fast food employees, and a majority of the total seats for labor allies. Franchise operators have no chance of being treated fairly under a law based on the false premise that they routinely violate labor laws – particularly when the jury is stacked against them.

At a time when food costs are skyrocketing and family budgets are being stretched thin, we think the Legislature got it wrong and are encouraged by the IFA and NRA's efforts to give the voters the final say.

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