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For Immediate Release

### **GEORGIA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION VOICES RELIEF AT JUDGE'S DECISION**

(Atlanta, GA) – Today, the Georgia Restaurant Association (GRA) voiced relief with the U.S. District Judge Thomas Thrash's desire to put on hold parts of Georgia's anti-illegal immigration law that was supposed to go into effect Friday. The Association believes that this will give businesses and our legislators some breathing room to work together in the formation of a coalition with the federal government to craft a workable legal solution.

"On behalf of the thousands of restaurants and small businesses we represent, we would like to work with our legislators in the future to do the right thing for Georgia," said Karen Bremer, GRA Executive Director. "The harsh reality is that our nation's recession has harmed so many people and businesses. That's why we are grateful for the provisions of this legislation that have been stayed. As it was written, it would have unjustly punished our small businesses, local municipalities and communities for the failure of a federal policy."

The Association stressed that it does not support illegal immigration and commends any action that identifies and prosecutes hardened criminals, especially those involved in drugs, trafficking or organized crime. "What we need is comprehensive federal immigration reform, including increased border security and a workable employment verification program," said Bremer.

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Across the nation, the restaurant community has voiced its willingness to work with Congress to find a responsible and realistic solution to this complex and contentious issue. The GRA is now focused on the education of our members in compliance with parts of the law that go into effect July 1st. The Association will continue to advocate for an immigration solution that keeps Georgia economically strong and strengthens our reputation as a leader.

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#### About the Georgia Restaurant Association

The GRA's mission is to serve as the voice for Georgia's Restaurants in Advocacy, Education and Awareness. The GRA is sanctioned by the National Restaurant Association (NRA) to operate Georgia's only not-for-profit representing the state's foodservice industry. From large chains to start-ups, the GRA helps make Georgia a better place for restaurants to do business and helps make restaurants better for Georgia.

For media inquiries, please contact the Georgia Restaurant Association at 404.467.9000.