People are the restaurant industry’s greatest asset. Our workforce is more diverse than any other sector in the economy.

Right now, 79% of restaurant operators have job openings that are tough to fill. The Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act (EWEA) would expand the workforce for occupations that provide growth opportunities without a college degree.

This non-immigrant temporary worker program would help restaurants fill job vacancies and provide employees with valuable training, experience, and a career path.

HOW DOES THE EWEA PROGRAM WORK?

The EWEA program would connect prospective workers with employers, both of whom must meet participation requirements.

- Once the employer has been approved, a prospective EWEA employee would be matched for a specific position and location.

- EWEA employees have the ability to move between qualifying positions available at EWEA employers and the potential to advance with growth and training.

- EWEA employers and employees must participate in employment verification through E-Verify.

- EWEA employers must prove that the position has remained unfilled for a set period of time and that no equally or better qualified U.S. worker who applied is ready, willing, and able to fill the position.
HOW DOES THE PROPOSED EWEA PROGRAM COMPARE WITH EXISTING ONES?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EWEA Workforce Program</th>
<th>Specialty Occupations Workforce Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity at 65,000.</td>
<td>Capacity at 65,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could go up to 85,000 (or down to 45,000) through a market-based mechanism.</td>
<td>An additional 20,000 for graduate degree holders from U.S. universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibits family members from joining participants in the U.S.</td>
<td>Allows family members to join participants in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized to work for an initial 3 years with extensions allowed for up to an additional 6 years.</td>
<td>Authorized to work for an initial 3 years with extensions allowed for a maximum of 3 years.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WHY THE PROPOSED EWEA PROGRAM WORKS FOR RESTAURANTS

The restaurant industry is one of the nation’s leading trainers, equipping employees with business acumen, leadership abilities, and communication skills that are highly transferrable and sought by other industries.

The EWEA program allots 25% of employees for businesses like restaurants that promote nationally recognized employee safety and health programs, hire workers under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) or have comparatively low sales per employee.

While that figure may appear small, the contributions that employees make will be significant. **EWEA employees will help grow the restaurant industry’s economic impact and acquire valuable skills that can be utilized throughout their career.**

POLICYMAKERS CAN HELP EXPAND WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES

The restaurant industry urges Congress to advance and pass the Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act.