



Greater Houston Restaurant Association
550 Westcott Suite 380
Houston, Texas 77007

December 4, 2015

Ms. Maggie Martin
Houston Matters
KUHF

Ms. Martin,

Please see below the requested statement from Greater Houston Restaurant Association in reference to the recent ROC survey on Houston's restaurant's industry.

The restaurant industry is an industry of opportunity and has provided the first rung in the employment ladder for millions of workers in America. Nine out of ten restaurant managers started in entry-level jobs and eight out of ten restaurant owners began as entry-level employees. According to industry surveys nine in ten restaurant employees say they are proud to work in the restaurant industry.

The ROC report uses statistics like a drunkard uses a lamppost... for support rather than illumination. To compare our industry to all workers in Houston ignores the fact that 46% of our workforce is 25 years old or under. That is almost three times as many young workers as the whole Houston workforce. Given our young workforce it is no surprise that only 26% have some college compared to 56% for all Houston workers. Our industry is also comprised of many part-time workers with many restaurants employing as much as two-thirds of the workforce on a part-time schedule.

For ROC to compare restaurant industry averages for wages and benefits to averages for the entire Houston workforce is comparing apples to oranges and using those findings to support a pre-determined position.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Melissa M. Stewart
Executive Director
Greater Houston Restaurant Association

John Moore
Board President
Greater Houston Restaurant Association