



DATE: January 22, 2010
TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly
FROM: Edward Lump, President & CEO
RE: Wisconsin Restaurant Association supports AB-414, requiring passage of a written examination to obtain a certificate of food protection practices

The Wisconsin Restaurant Association (WRA) supports AB-414. We have a long history of pushing for initiatives that have substantive and positive effects on food safety in Wisconsin.

- WRA was the leading advocate of the current Wisconsin Law (effective since 1995) requiring that every licensed restaurant have a least one Certified Food Protection Manager on staff. To become certified a manager must pass an exam from a National Conference of Food Protection (NCFP) accredited exam provider (no class time is required but most applicants do take a class or study on-line). There are three accredited exam providers.
- Current law also requires that a Certified Food Protection Manager be re-certified every 5 years. However, to be re-certified, the managers need only be present for a three-hour class.
- Re-certification by class-time-only has not proven effective in ensuring that new information and changes to the Food Code are learned by the certified manager. This is because just sitting in a class has no accountability. There is no measurement that anything was learned. There is also no legal defensibility.
- **AB 414 requires that re-certification be accomplished by passing a NCFP accredited exam. Class time will no longer be required but, as with the original certification, most will take a class or review on-line.**
- The increased costs associated with the test are minimal (up to \$50) and will only occur once every five years. However, applicants may choose to study on their own and just take the test. For these applicants, their costs will actually go down under the provisions of this bill.
- Re-certification by testing has been in effect in Milwaukee since January 1, 2009. It has been supported by industry and there have been few, if any, problems.
- The Wisconsin Restaurant Association is supporting AB-414 in order to further food safety in Wisconsin. It will cause the public, and the restaurant industry, to be better protected from outbreaks of food-borne illness.

We ask you to pass AB 414.