



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NCCR Applauds Landrieu Amendment on Flexible Grace Period**

Washington, December 9, 2009 - NCCR today thanked Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu and several of her colleagues for introducing an amendment to the Senate health care bill that would grant employers additional time before new automatic enrollment requirements on employers would take effect. "With this amendment Sen. Landrieu recognizes that a one-size-fits-all mandate on employers isn't workable in all industries," said NCCR Vice President Scott Vinson. "The Landrieu amendment acknowledges the unique characteristics and workforce of service sector employers, including our wafer-thin profit margins and flexible workplaces, and we urge her Senate colleagues to support it."

The Landrieu amendment, which is also cosponsored by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Mark Warner (D-VA), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), would eliminate the monetary penalties imposed on employers for coverage waiting periods of 30 days to 90 days. "The restaurant industry is experiencing the worst decline in decades, and the Senate bill's auto-enrollment penalties would have added insult to injury. There's nothing quite like the threat of higher costs and penalties imposed from above by Washington to discourage employers from hiring. Sen. Landrieu's amendment is welcome relief and a significant step in the right direction," said Vinson.

The National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR) is the leading trade association exclusively representing chain restaurant companies. For more than 40 years, NCCR has worked to advance sound public policy that best serves the interests of both chain restaurants and the millions of people they employ. NCCR members include the country's largest and most respected quick-serve and casual dining companies. The National Council of Chain Restaurants is a division of the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade group. [www.nccr.net](http://www.nccr.net)

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