

## **Restaurants are safe to do business with!**

I am the President of Wood Fruitticher Foodservice, a family owned, 107 year old foodservice distributor in Birmingham serving restaurants throughout the Southeast. I am disheartened that so many people feel unsafe ordering takeout from restaurants. As I see pictures of empty grocery stores and long lines at checkout counters I can't help but think that it has to be just as safe to buy dinner from the door of a restaurant or a drive through as it is going into a supermarket with other shoppers.

Restaurants are required to have one employee on duty at all times that is ServSafe certified. ServSafe is an educational program developed by the National Restaurant Association to educate the America's 14 million food service workers about food safety. For years people working in restaurants have been practicing safety measures similar to the ones we are all now practicing in order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

I have no doubt that the employees in our supermarkets also practice safe food handling and I have confidence in their ability to keep me safe while shopping. However, I have just as much if not more confidence in a restaurant's ability to prepare my meal and deliver it to me at my car window or their front door. And I don't have to be in a building with more than 25 people! I will be ordering takeout tonight. I hope you do too.

Ford Hamilton

Birmingham, AL