

**Testimony Submitted by David Vivino
President/Co-owner of Oakmont Tavern**

**March 9, 2021
House Majority Policy Committee Hearing**

- Wolf announced on March 13 2020 all indoor and outdoor dining in bars and restaurants closed for two weeks to flatten the curve. takeout food only.
- April 1 2020 he extends restaurant and bar closures for takeout only.
- May 15 Allegheny County moves into the yellow phase limited outside seating dining and carry out only.
- June 5, 2020 Allegheny county enters the green phase 50% indoor seating open till 11 PM. food must be ordered & no more than 3 drinks.
- July 3, 2020, Allegheny County closed for one week to go food only.
- Two weeks later July 15 bars and restaurants are open to 25% capacity till 11 food must be ordered with alcoholic drinks.
- September 21, 2020 restaurants and bars increase capacity to 50% open to 11 food must be ordered.
- November 23, 2020 restaurants and bars are ordered to close November 25 and November 26.
- December 10 2020 Governor Wolf ordered us to close from December 12 to
- January 4 only 50% outside seating and to go food.
- Feb 19 2021 Gov signs another 90 day extension. When will this madness end. We have no clue. How in the world can a business survive this. Wolf constantly changing restrictions. Our leaders make their announcements on tv acting like they care about our businesses. For months I've left messages for governor Wolf. County executive Fitzgerald and Dr. Bogen. Not once did I get a call back.
- Here's how all these restrictions have affected Restaurants & Bars.
- We usually receive our orders for weekend on Thursday or Friday morning for the weekend. Governor wolf would announce restrictions on Friday evening and we are stuck with food and beer that will go to waste. We could not make a claim with our insurance company for business interruption and loss of product to recoup our losses. Losing \$1000s in product.
- We've spent \$1000s on Plexiglas dividers for bar and booths, sanitizing stations and posters for Covid restrictions to keep our customers safe and they continue to shut us down and let the big box stores rake in millions and billions in profits.
- During this time we could not afford to donate to our schools, local projects and charities.
- Also my business alone lost over \$500,000 in sales. That's 50% of our annual sales. We are lucky to be still open. It's a miracle we are surviving. As of Dec 26 2020, I know of 22 restaurants/Bars that have closed their doors forever. I'm sure there are many more
- While our businesses where restricted; Wal-Mart, Lowes, giant eagle, Home Depot are packed with customers. Making billions in profits while we struggle.
- As of Feb 23 2021. there have been a total of 1628 total deaths in Allegheny County. 52% of the deaths were in nursing homes and long-term care homes. Its tragic that so many of our elderly citizens were infected & died but our Industry did not contribute to that but we are treated as though we are to blame
- while our business is being controlled by our government; we are still paying the alcohol tax that funds pat transit, insurance, taxes etc.
- because of all the restrictions and closings we were unable to get certain products and the products we can get are extremely expensive. Beef, produce & poultry went up almost 50% or more. Chemicals to clean went up over 100%.
- for almost a whole year there has been no plan, no light at the end tunnel for us, only constantly changing restrictions that prohibit us from making a living. We did everything they asked and they continue to punish the food service industry. At first it was only supposed to be a 2 week shut down to flatten the curve. Then, it was till the number of cases went down. Then, till we got a vaccine. All that has happened and we still see no end in sight.
- After scraping by for almost a year with 0 profits, 1/2 million Dollars in lost revenue and barely enough to pay bills; What do we need now: We need to reopen to 100% capacity. We need employees back to work. We need Money. PPP Loans were appreciated but were a drop in the bucket. They should be 100% forgiven. March 15th We are able to apply for a grant. We are not sure if we will even get it. Our industry has been hit the hardest. We need money to get us back on our feet that we won't have to repay. Thank God Food Industry workers are hard working, prideful people. They are the reason we will make it through this and the China Virus will be a thing of the past

