

## *The Challenge of Getting Restaurant Workers to Come Back, Nation's Restaurant News*

*By Arif Virji, managing partner of KD San Francisco and Sonoma offices.*

*Fear of COVID-19 and the pull of enhanced unemployment benefits is keeping employees off the job, but that may not be enough to turn down work.*

*As restaurants gradually reopen for greater levels of dine-in service, employers are faced with the challenge of convincing their workers to come back.*

*Through the end of July, many of those workers were sustained by an extra \$600 per week in additional emergency support created under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, a relief effort Democrats in Congress would like to see continued. Senate Republicans are reportedly considering a bill that would provide \$300 per week in enhanced benefits.*

*In the meantime, President Trump has issued an executive order granting a \$400 weekly benefit and a number of states, including California, have negotiated accepting a modified version of that executive order, pending a final resolution of the standoff in Congress. As a result, most employees will be guaranteed at least some level of significant additional unemployment benefits through the end of the year.*

*Restaurants that are reopening will therefore continue to confront the problem of employees who may prefer to remain on those enhanced unemployment benefits — especially in states where COVID-19 cases are spiking.*