

## Michigan House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 15, 2022

Committee Hearing on HB 5705

*Written Testimony for Hayley Prim, Uber Technologies Inc.<sup>1</sup>*

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Uber Eats welcomes a conversation with the Committee on Agriculture in the Michigan legislature regarding HB 5705, which would require food delivery workers to obtain a certification in order to deliver food through a third party food delivery platform in Michigan. Uber Eats is committed to ensuring food safety for our customers globally through our [Community Guidelines](#) which our delivery people commit to follow and which share information on relevant food safety standards. This approach underscores the importance for delivery partners on following basic food safety principles, including but not limited to product segregation, contamination prevention, time/temperature management, and tampering prevention. We promote the use of and access to insulated bags to help maintain food temperatures during delivery, and we leverage mapping data to reduce delivery times and provide transparency to our customers. We also work with nationally renowned third party experts, such as the Partnership for Food Safety Education and the Conference for Food Protection (CFP). Through our participation in CFP's Direct-to-Consumer and Third-Party Delivery Service Food Delivery subcommittee, we engaged in the development of a guidance doc for food safety best practices for third-party delivery (TPD) services & since its approval at CFP last year, we been working to implement those best practices into the our policies, standards, and operational processes.

As a technology platform, Uber Eats does not prepare or sell food, though we partner with more than 5,000 restaurants across Michigan. Uber Eats is an online marketplace that connects restaurants with consumers and independent contractors offering delivery services. The proposed requirements would apply an existing regulatory regime designed for on-site food preparation to delivery people who have no role in preparing food. For instance, Food Handler Card programs apply to workers who prepare, handle, and serve non pre-packaged food. These cards should not be required of delivery drivers who do not handle food directly.

These programs were created to ensure food safety at restaurants and other establishments where food is being prepared and served. If Michigan requires that all delivery drivers obtain a certification in order to deliver food, it will negatively impact restaurants and delivery people who are already struggling due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. Restaurants rely on third party delivery companies to reach new and existing customers, increase sales, and maintain their business. These requirements would severely restrict the use of third party food delivery, stifle growth and business sales as well as restaurants' ability to weather the challenges of COVID, and also deny consumers expanded options for convenient and affordable delivery. These requirements are burdensome and unnecessary for delivery people and would significantly increase barriers to entry for this type of work, and cut off an important source of income for families, particularly during this crisis.

We respectfully oppose HB 5705 as we believe the requirement is overly burdensome and ultimately does not align with how third party food delivery operates in Michigan.

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<sup>1</sup> Uber Technologies, Inc., is the parent of Portier, LLC which operates under 'Uber EATS'.