

July 15, 2016

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, we applaud the committee for its favorable reporting of H.R. 3765, "The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015," during the House Judiciary Committee markup on July 7th, 2016. We were pleased to see the passage of the Manager's Amendment and commend the committee for its constructive and bipartisan approach to this matter.

Our associations and its members strongly support the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which is to prohibit discrimination and ensure all Americans have equal access and opportunities. Business and property owners are committed to creating a safe, welcoming environment for everyone and acknowledge the significant impact the ADA has made in achieving that goal.

However, we believe H.R. 3765 is needed to ensure that resources are focused on improving access and compliance while protecting business from abusive lawsuits. Unfortunately, there is a "cottage industry" made up of attorneys and plaintiffs who file lawsuits based on trivial violations that abuse the ADA. As you acknowledged during the committee markup, it has become all too common for business and property owners to settle these cases, as it is less expensive to settle than to defend them, even if the property owner is compliant. This bill will change that by requiring that the business owners have time to fix what is allegedly broken.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to continuing our work together to advance H.R. 3765 into law.

Sincerely,

American Hotel and Lodging Association
American Resort Development Association
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International
CCIM Institute
Institute of Real Estate Management
International Council of Shopping Centers
International Franchise Association
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of REALTORS®

National Association of Theatre Owners
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Federation of Independent Business
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Restaurant Association
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Plazas and Truck Stops
Retail Industry Leaders Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce