

January 24, 2017

Representative Ted Poe
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jackie Speier
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Scott Peters
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Michael Conaway
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ken Calvert
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ami Bera
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Poe, Peters, Calvert, Speier, Conaway, and Bera,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, we applaud your introduction of H.R. 620, "The ADA Education and Reform Act." We thank you and your colleagues for your quick and thoughtful re-introduction of this important legislation in the 115th Congress.

Our associations and our members strongly support the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its goal to ensure that 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.

Legislation is needed to ensure that resources are focused on improving access and compliance with the law while protecting business from abusive lawsuits. Unfortunately, the ADA is being undermined by a growing "cottage industry" made up of attorneys and plaintiffs who file lawsuits against business and property owners over alleged violations. The current system creates confusion amongst business and property owners who reasonably believed their property was ADA compliant – typically based on assurances by state and local inspectors. Oftentimes, business owners find it is less expensive to settle the suits than to defend them, even if the property owner is compliant. This bill will change that by requiring that 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 protect businesses while honoring the spirit of the ADA.

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