



January 24, 2017

The Honorable Ted Poe
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
United State House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Poe:

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) and the undersigned state hotel associations, representing all segments of the U.S. lodging industry, which supports 8 million jobs, including hotel owners, REITs, chains, franchisees, management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, and industry suppliers, write to commend you for your re-introduction of “The ADA Education and Reform Act.”

We strongly support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are provided unfettered access to our properties. Unfortunately, Title III of the ADA, which covers private businesses open to the public, is being exploited by unscrupulous attorneys for their personal financial gain with no corresponding benefit for the disability community. Thousands of businesses have been sued or received demand letters threatening lawsuits unless they pay a settlement for minor, easily correctable ADA infractions. Many businesses do not have the time, resources, or inclination to challenge these lawsuits and instead decide to settle out of court.

Your legislation provides businesses the opportunity to identify and correct an alleged violation before being forced to engage in a costly and drawn-out settlement process. This ensures that money can be spent on improving access for our guests rather than lining the pockets of those looking to exploit the ADA.

The lodging industry thanks you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

American Hotel & Lodging Association
Alabama Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association
Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association
Arkansas Hospitality Association
California Hotel & Lodging Association
Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association
Connecticut Lodging Association



Hotel Association of Washington DC
Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association
The Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association
Indiana Restaurant & Lodging Association
Louisiana Hotel & Lodging Association
Maine Innkeepers Association
Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association
Massachusetts Lodging Association
Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association
Minnesota Lodging Association
Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
Nebraska Hotel & Lodging Association
New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association
New Jersey Hotel & Lodging Association
New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association
Hotel Association of New York City, Inc.
North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association
Rhode Island Hospitality Association
South Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association
Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association
Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
Utah Hotel & Lodging Association
Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, & Travel Association
Washington Lodging Association
West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association
Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association
Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association