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January 25, 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

Re: Support for H.R. 620

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

On behalf of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 620, "The ADA Education and Reform Act."

Founded in 1907, BOMA International is a dynamic international federation of 91 BOMA U.S. associations and 17 international affiliates representing 16,000 owners and managers of all commercial property types. Since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1991, BOMA International has been considered an industry leader on accessibility issues. BOMA published the groundbreaking ADA Compliance Guidebook: A Checklist for Your Building, which offered property professionals technical guidance to meet the provisions of the ADA. BOMA also provided extensive input in the two key forums where new accessibility requirements have been developed: The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A117.1 Committee and the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board).

Congress passed the ADA to promote accessibility for all Americans. Unfortunately, the spirit of the ADA is being undermined by a handful of attorneys who subvert the law's intent to profit personally. These attorneys file lawsuits over technical, easily correctable violations and pressure business owners into paying large settlements consisting principally of attorney's fees. This is not the best way to achieve increased accessibility in our communities.

Recently, this problem has been exacerbated. Last year continued the streak of years in which the number of lawsuits related to Title III of the ADA, which is the section that governs accessibility in public access space, increased from the previous year.

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Commercial Advisors Asset Services LLC  
Memphis, TN

**President and Chief Operating Officer**  
**Henry H. Chamberlain, APR, FASAE, CAE**

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Since 2012, the number of these lawsuits has ballooned over 100 percent nationwide and up to 1000 percent in certain states.

H.R. 620 aims to solve the problem by ensuring that property owners' main focus is removing alleged barriers and not navigating the complex legal system. By providing a "notice and cure" period, the bill allows business owners 120 days to correct identified ADA violations before the commencement of a lawsuit. This narrowly tailored bill keeps the focus on accessibility and preserves the spirit of the ADA.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with your office to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry H. Chamberlain".

Henry H) Chamberlain  
President and COO  
BOMA International