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ICYMI: Anderson Cooper Asks “What’s a Drive-by Lawsuit” on CBS’s “60 Minutes”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Anderson Cooper highlighted the growing epidemic of drive-by lawsuits filed under the Americans with Disabilities Act on CBS’s “60 Minutes” last night.

In the lengthy investigative piece, Cooper speaks with small business owners and the lawyers defending them. In drive-by lawsuits, a small number of plaintiffs and attorneys file the suits by the hundreds, alleging minor infractions—or none at all—of the ADA.

“You can simply drive by a store or restaurant, and if you see a sign in the wrong spot, or a ramp that’s off by a few inches, you can sue. They are called drive-by lawsuits, and some lawyers are filing hundreds of them against businesses that often have no idea they have done anything wrong,” Cooper reported.

Cooper also interviewed two individuals with disabilities who were recruited by attorneys to be plaintiffs for lawsuits, promising them “\$100,000, \$200,000” a year. Both men are now suing the attorneys for fraud, saying they were misled about the nature of the lawsuits.

One missing piece in Cooper’s reporting was the legislative solution that has been proposed by Rep. Ted Poe (R, Texas) and Sen. Jeff Flake (R, Ariz.). Their bipartisan [ADA Education and Reform Act](#) would give businesses a grace period to fix any alleged issue, like a sign being off by a few inches.

Chip Rogers, the president and CEO of Asian American Hotel Owners Association, said the bill is a “big step forward for the ADA.”

“Abuse of the law by unscrupulous attorneys and plaintiffs for a quick payday undermines its goal of increasing access for everyone. Giving businesses the opportunity to specifically identify and fix problems before beginning costly litigation will ultimately strengthen the law and help eliminate barriers,” said Rogers.

Read or watch the entire piece on the [“60 Minutes” website](#).

Founded in 1989, AAHOA (www.aahoa.com) is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with more than 16,000 small business owner-members. AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States.

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