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### **AAHOA Statement on ADA Title III Lawsuit Abuses**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 2 — AAHOA president and CEO Chip Rogers released the following statement in response to new data from Seyfarth Shaw LLP showing a 14% surge in the number of federal ADA Title III lawsuits filed in 2017 relative to 2016:

“The Americans with Disabilities Act is a landmark civil rights law designed to remove barriers for our fellow Americans with disabilities. Regrettably, unscrupulous attorneys and serial plaintiffs are abusing a provision in the law under Title III to file unfounded lawsuits for alleged physical accessibility issues with the hope of securing a settlement that is often less than the cost of a business obtaining counsel and fighting the allegation in court. The data compiled by Seyfarth Shaw LLP shows a disturbing upward trend in the number of these cases. Fortunately, a remedy to these drive-by lawsuits, which often target minority small business owners, is advancing through Congress. H.R. 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017, which would codify a “notice and cure period” to provide businesses with an opportunity to address alleged violations before a lawsuit is filed. AAHOA members remain hopeful that Congress will find a legislative solution that is designed to uphold both the spirit and original intent of the law and allows businesses and constituencies empowered by the ADA to work together on accessibility issues while discouraging frivolous and predatory lawsuits.”

The synopsis of ADA Title III lawsuits can be found here: <https://goo.gl/Xwnucg>

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*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners’ association in the world. The nearly 18,000 AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States. With billions of dollars in property assets and hundreds of thousands of employees, AAHOA members are core economic contributors in virtually every community. AAHOA is a proud defender of free enterprise and the foremost current-day example of realizing the American dream.*