

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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June 18, 2008

The Honorable John Conyers
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, urges you to support a substitute amendment to H.R. 3195, the "ADA Restoration Act," that would embody a compromise reached between the employer and disability communities.

As you know, the Chamber has significant concerns with H.R. 3195 as introduced. However, over the last several months the Chamber, along with others in the business community, have engaged in extensive discussions with organizations representing the disability community and have reached a compromise. The compromise would overturn recent Supreme Court cases that have led to an unduly narrow interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would significantly clarify the Act's coverage. By doing this in a way that preserves the ADA's basic framework, the compromise should make compliance and implementation significantly easier for employers.

Reaching this compromise was not easy. The Chamber believes that it represents a balanced approach to ensure appropriate coverage under the ADA and asks that you will support the substitute without further amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance as you consider these important changes to the ADA.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

Cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary