

Sarah Bratko
Washington DC
LD 2195

Dear Committee Members:

We write in regards to LD 2195, which creates a much-needed notice provision in the Maine Human Rights Act.

AHLA and our members strongly support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Maine Human Rights Act and are committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are provided unfettered access to our properties and online services.

Notice requirements, as is proposed in this legislation, are an important tool for businesses who are trying to comply with the law. This is particularly important in a state like Maine, where many lodging establishments are older and have unique architectural elements.

Given Maine's number of historical buildings, the State has developed different standards for compliance based on when they were built or altered (Ch 337 Sub. 5: Public Accommodations, Sec. § 4593-4594-G). For some buildings, it will be a cost test while for others, they use a 'readily achievable' standard with a definition drawn from the US ADA that takes into account costs and additional facts.

While we are in support of the legislation, we ask that the Committee clarify that business owners may use this existing standard when assessing their response to a notice of non-compliance.