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LODGING INDUSTRY URGES CHANGE IN ACA FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE DEFINITION

Increasing 30-hour minimum a “win-win” for workers and their employers

Washington, D.C. – October 9, 2013 – The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) issued the following statement on today’s hearing of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Technology to examine the current definition of full-time employment in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as 30 hours per week, and the impact of this definition on small businesses nationwide:

“Increasing the healthcare law’s current definition of full-time status would be a win-win for hard-working Americans and their employers, and would benefit our entire economy,” said Katherine Lugar, AH&LA president/CEO. “Employees would have the ability to work more hours and increase their take-home pay, employers would be able to provide more generous health coverage – without prohibitive premium costs – to full-time employees, and lower-income employees would have greater access to affordable coverage options.”

The lodging industry is advocating for changes in the current law to allow for a definition of full-time status that is more in keeping with current employment practices. The current ACA definition could lead to disruptions in the workforce and does not allow employees to maintain flexible work schedules.

“We appreciate Chairman Collins convening today’s hearing and urge Congress to build upon this first step to thoroughly examine the problematic impacts of the ACA full-time definition as currently written,” continued Lugar. “At a time when our still-fragile economic recovery is being hamstrung by gridlock in Washington, we would hope that Congress would take every opportunity to strengthen the ability of our nation’s small businesses to provide good jobs and good benefits for all employees. Now is the time for us to focus on policies that drive economic growth and job creation; redefining full-time status is an important step in that effort.”

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Serving the hospitality industry for more than a century, the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) is the sole national association representing all sectors and stakeholders in the lodging industry, including individual hotel property members, hotel companies, student and faculty members, and industry suppliers. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AH&LA provides members with national advocacy on Capitol Hill, public relations and image management, education, research and information, and other value-added services to provide bottom-line savings

and ensure a positive business climate for the lodging industry. Partner state associations provide local representation and additional cost-saving benefits to members.