

Thomas M. Susman
Director
Governmental Affairs Office

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
740 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1760
FAX: (202) 662-1762
SusmanT@staff.abanet.org

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The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the
District of Columbia
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I write in support of H.R. 2850, the "Administrative Law Judges Retirement Act of 2009," introduced by Representative Dennis Kucinich and referred to your Subcommittee on June 26, 2009. This legislation would provide for enhanced retirement benefits for administrative law judges.

The present retirement system for federal administrative law judges makes it difficult to recruit and retain the best and the brightest because it does not reflect the work they perform and the extensive level of prior legal experience required of them. Administrative law is complex and demanding; as a result, many administrative law judges do not enter the system until they are experienced trial lawyers at a later stage in life. Enacting H.R. 2850 would remove current disincentives to serving as an administrative law judge and help to ensure that the American people have highly qualified administrative law judges to decide their cases.

H.R. 2850 is consistent with ABA policy adopted in February 2004, and we encourage you to schedule this important legislation for a markup. We stand ready to be a resource to you and your Subcommittee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Susman

cc. Honorable Dennis Kucinich