



April 29, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Support “ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act”**

Dear Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan:

The American Association for Justice (AAJ), formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), is writing to express our strong support of the “ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act.” AAJ, with members in the United States, Canada, and abroad, is the world’s largest plaintiff trial bar and works to preserve access to justice.

This much needed legislation addresses the problem created by Executive Order 13843 which eliminated the fair and competitive hiring process for Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). By simply restoring the exam and reinstating the merit-based hiring process, this bill would ensure that qualified and impartial ALJs are selected to preside over administrative hearings.

Restoring the competitive process would ensure that Administrative Law Judges are selected based on their competence, qualifications, and ability to serve as triers of fact. Restoring the merit-based competitive process will further ensure that decisions affecting the lives of the American people are made by competent and qualified individuals. Whereas the executive order provides no guidance on appropriate hiring criteria, the “ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act” provides agencies with clear direction on hiring.

The “ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act” would be a return to a well-tested process that protects the integrity of the Administrative process and ensures the impartiality and fitness of its ALJs. AAJ strongly supports this legislation and urges the committee to act quickly to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Linda Lipsen  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Association of Justice