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The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The American Bankers Association (ABA)[1] writes today to urge swift passage of S. 3798, the Safe Access to Cash Act, the Senate-passed companion to legislation led by Reps. John Rose (R-TN) and Glenn Ivey (D-MD) in the House.[2] This legislation would codify ATM crimes under the Bank Robbery Act and ensure the penalties for such crimes are consistent with those for bank robberies. The Senate passed S. 3798 by voice vote on September 30.

ATMs provide communities with convenient access to cash and banking services when branches are closed or inaccessible. Banks regularly assess the evolving risks and deploy technologies and procedures to protect ATMs, their users, and the surrounding areas. However, the accessibility of ATMs also makes them, and the consumers that use them, attractive targets for criminals. ABA supports stronger prosecution of, and strong penalties for, those who commit crimes against ATMs and the people who use or service them.

Criminals often use stolen personal and commercial vehicles and construction equipment to physically remove ATMs and access the safe, often resulting in a loss of service while the ATMs and surrounding areas are repaired or replaced. As institutions deploy stronger defenses, criminals have also increasingly targeted ATM servicers for robberies. Attacks against ATMs and those using or servicing them will continue if criminals view them as easy targets with little risk of prosecution. Encouraging prosecution of these crimes and applying strong penalties will help make ATMs, and the people who use and service them, less attractive targets.

We strongly encourage the House to pass this bipartisan legislation before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Blum

[1] The American Bankers Association is the voice of the nation's $26.5 trillion banking industry, which is composed of small, regional and large banks that together employ over 2 million people, safeguard $20.7 trillion in deposits and extend $13.9 trillion in loans.
[2] H.R. 1631