

## ABA Advocacy Work

### Q1 and Q2 FY 2025

The American Booksellers Association's (ABA) Advocacy Division has been actively engaged in addressing several critical issues impacting independent bookstores during the first two quarters of fiscal year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – March 30, 2025). Key focuses included **legislative solutions for ADA compliance lawsuits, tariffs, state legislation on swipe fee reform**, and other vital matters. This report excludes ABA's free expression work, which is detailed in separate updates on BookWeb.

ABA has been working with coalition partners to clarify **tariff regulations**. As of March 31, 2025, books are exempt from tariffs with Canada, China, and Mexico, though the situation remains fluid.

In late December, the **United States Postal Service** proposed removing parcels from the Dominant Marketing List, which would significantly impact bookstore shipping costs and times. ABA expressed its opposition to the **Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC)** Chair and is monitoring the PRC's review of comments and upcoming decisions.

Over 10 states introduced **swipe fee legislation** in the second quarter, aiming to prohibit credit card companies from charging processing fees on sales taxes and gratuities. These bills generally require merchants to submit sales tax amounts for a rebate. In early February, nine booksellers and ABA Advocacy staff participated in a Fly-In in Washington, DC, to support the **Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA)**. This smaller Fly-In focused on new members of Congress, with booksellers meeting with several congressional offices to advocate for the bill, which seeks to lower swipe fees for retailers. The ABA also submitted written testimony supporting CCCA in November and released marketing assets to inform customers about swipe fees.

In the first quarter of 2025, ABA's Advocacy division released an FAQ on **Maryland's Gift Cards Scam Protection Act**, which imposes new requirements on retailers to protect consumers from fraud. In February, the Advocacy team met with the new FTC Chair, Andrew Ferguson, to discuss enforcement of the **Robinson-Patman Act regarding Amazon's alleged antitrust violations**.

Advocacy held meetings with congressional offices regarding **ADA website compliance lawsuits against small businesses**, resulting in draft bills by Rep. Calvert's and Sen. Budd's offices, and a bill introduced in Illinois by Senator Laura Murphy. ABA staff were available at Winter Institute in Denver, Colorado, to discuss advocacy and free speech issues.

ABA participated in **Small Business Rising meetings**, a coalition supporting stronger antitrust enforcement. ABA also provided updates on its **health insurance partnership with LIG Solutions** during the Open Enrollment period.

ABA provided weekly updates in its newsletter, **Bookselling This Week (BTW)**. The Advocacy division conducted 63 legislative actions, including 26 campaigns and broadcasts and 15

meetings with lawmakers, focusing on small business issues, swipe fees, ADA, and antitrust enforcement.

Guidance was also provided on **US Treasury requirements for corporations to report identifying information to FinCEN**, though these requirements were later challenged in court and did not go into effect.