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June 16, 2016

Mr. Brian Chesky
CEO
Airbnb, Inc.
888 Brannan Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Chesky:

As members of Congress and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are committed to ensuring African Americans have the same opportunities available to any other group. To that end, we write to share our concerns regarding the recent reports of the exclusion of many African Americans and other minorities from booking rooms on your site due to their race.

Title II of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation, including hotels and motels, because of race, color, religion, or national origin. In light of the documented discrimination occurring on your website, we understand Airbnb is planning a comprehensive review of the internet platform in which your users interact with private citizens for the purpose of renting their homes or rooms in their home. We appreciate you taking the first step in correcting this serious issue. As part of your comprehensive review, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions:

1. Why is it seemingly so easy to discriminate against someone via Airbnb's internet platform?

2. Do you have data with regard to racial, ethnic, gender, or other types of discrimination on the Airbnb internet platform currently in use? If so, what does the data show?

3. What is Airbnb doing at present to address this glaring issue of discrimination?

4. Will Airbnb consider implementing some of the common sense measures to avoid discrimination of their customers like those suggested by Dr. Michael Luca in the June 2, 2016, *Washington Post* article which suggested fixes such as "downplaying when and where Airbnb displays guests' pictures and names; increasing the use of the instant booking feature that eliminates the subjective dialogue with hosts deciding which reservations to book; and converting Airbnb's anti-discrimination policy into regular notices each time someone books a reservation."

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We urge Airbnb to take the issue of discrimination seriously as it has no place in our society. We look forward to your responses to the questions posed above and continuing a dialogue so together we can help end discrimination within the tech industry.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress
Chairman, The Congressional Black Caucus

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

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