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Songwriters Guild of America Cheers Passage of the CASE Act (HR 2426) by the US House of Representatives

Senate Passage Is Next Goal for Advocates

Washington, D.C. – The Songwriters Guild of America, the nation’s longest established and largest advocacy organization run by and for songwriters and composers, cheered the passage last evening of the CASE Act (H.R. 2426) by the House of Representatives. The vote was an overwhelming 410 to 6 in favor of the interests of copyright creators.

According to SGA President and hit songwriter Rick Carnes, “Today’s House action on the CASE Act is an enormous step forward that has been over a decade in the making. This crucial legislation, which will establish an affordable alternative for music creators and unauthorized users of music to settle their differences without having to litigate in federal court, will go a long way toward restoring the ability of copyright owners to enforce their rights under law. Right now, with the cost of full-blown copyright suits ranging upwards of \$400,000, copyright has quite literally become a right without a remedy. The CASE Act changes that dynamic, restoring fairness to the process while still allowing prospective defendants an opt-out option.”

SGA, which has championed the idea of a copyright small claims system since 2008 and before, intends to join with its colleagues in the Authors Guild and the US Copyright Alliance in respectfully advocating for quick passage in the Senate, and full enactment by 2020. The Senate Judiciary Committee has already approved the bill.

“SGA wants to thank our many friends and supporters in the House that made passage possible,” continued Carnes, “especially Representatives Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and Doug Collins (R-GA) for their leadership in introducing H.R. 2426 in the House.” Other co-sponsors included stalwart supporters of the American creative community such as Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Hank Johnson (D-GA), Martha Roby (R-AL), Judy Chu (D-CA), Ben Cline (R-VA), Ted Lieu (D-CA), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) (each an original co-sponsor), and many other subsequent co-sponsors of the Act.

A copy of the bill can be found [here](#).