

HR 620 - ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017

HR 620 requires a person with a disability to provide written notice to a business where they encounter barriers to access. The notice must provide sufficient detail to identify the prohibited act, practice, and how to comply with the law. The business would then have 60 days to acknowledge that there is a problem and then another 120 days to begin to fix it.

No other protected class or minority is forced to wait 180 days to enforce their civil rights!

HR 620: The Issue

- ▶ **The ADA Education and Reform Act would seriously weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act** and would turn people with disabilities into second-class citizens.
- ▶ H.R. 620 would require a person with a disability who encounters an access barrier to send a written notice, and gives the business owner 60 days to even acknowledge that there is a problem—and then another 120 days to begin to fix it. **No other protected class of people or minority group is forced to wait 180 days to enforce their civil rights.**
- ▶ **HR 620 would create significant obstacles for people with disabilities** to enforce their rights under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to access public accommodations, and would impede their ability to engage in daily activities.
- ▶ **HR 620 shifts the burden of protecting the right to access to the person with the disability**, who first has to be denied access; then must determine that violations of the law have occurred; then must provide the business with specific notice of which provisions of the law were violated and when; and finally, the aggrieved person with the disability must afford the business a lengthy period to correct the problem.
- ▶ **HR 620 protects business owners from the burden of understanding and complying with rules designed to ensure that people with disabilities could access public accommodations**, on the grounds that this burden is too heavy for businesses. Yet, people with disabilities are expected to shoulder this burden and to provide businesses with information about the specific legal obligations that they are violating—after those individuals have been denied the access rights that Congress gave them decades ago.
- ▶ **The bill's proponents have forgotten the everyday experiences of millions of people with disabilities** who cannot shop, transact personal business, or enjoy recreation as most Americans take for granted because so many public accommodations across the country have ignored the reasonable requirements of the ADA.
- ▶ **It is troubling that this bill blames people with disabilities** for the failure of some businesses to comply with the ADA. Why should people with disabilities pay the price of an inaccessible environment, where we cannot live our lives like everyone else?



MISSION ... To advance the rights, choices, and value of people with disabilities through our individual and collective advocacy and education efforts

Summary:

The ADA has been law for almost 27 years. By this time, business owners have had ample notice of the ADA's requirements. If, after 27 years, a business has continued to not comply with the requirements of this legislation, **why should a person who has a disability have to wait longer for enforcement of their civil rights?** Title III of the ADA already reflects a compromise that takes into account the concerns of businesses; it does not allow individuals to seek monetary damages for violations of their civil rights. **Now legislation like H.R. 620 seeks to further erode the civil rights of people with disabilities.** The House Judiciary Committee will be considering this bill very soon and it will then be voted on by the entire House of Representatives.

URGENT: Call to Action!

Arizona Representative Kyrsten Sinema has sponsored HR 620. Additionally, Arizona Representatives Trent Franks and Andy Biggs are members of the House Judiciary Committee, which will vote on HR620 as early as **THIS** week. This bill continues to gain support from both sides of the aisle in Congress, and it's on **US** to fight it!

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