



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

H.R. 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act Tool Kit

Congress is about to vote on a bill that would strip away the civil rights of people with disabilities. H.R. 620, also known as the “ADA Notification” bill, is expected to be voted on **as early as Wednesday, February 14**. H.R. 620 would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and make it harder for people with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of society.

This bill would remove any consequence for businesses with architectural barriers that violate the ADA unless and until a person with a disability provides them with a legal notice detailing how the business has violated the law. After that, the person with a disability would have to wait for six months or more for the business to fix the problem. Further, businesses would no longer have to provide access but only to make “progress.”

We need to #SaveADA and defeat this bill. You can read more about the ADA Notification bill and its harmful impact on people with disabilities here: <http://c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rubpage=43>.

Now is the time to act!
We cannot and will not go backwards!
We will #SaveADA!

A House Rules Committee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at 5:00 p.m. We are not sure if this hearing will be open to the public or will be held in secret. A vote on the House floor is likely to follow on Wednesday or Thursday. We need advocates to take action starting Friday, Feb. 9 to #SaveADA! Don't let Congress rip the heart out of this section of the ADA!

National Disability Write Your Rep Day (Friday, Feb. 9)

National organizations have been flooding House offices with their letters opposing H.R. 620. Now is the time for constituents to weigh in with their representatives. We need for offices to receive an overwhelming number of written messages opposing H.R.620 to counteract support from the business lobby.

To write your representative, go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> and enter your zip code. From there, click on the envelope under your representative's photo.

Here is a sample message:

"Dear Rep [name],

As someone who lives in your district, I want you to vote no on H.R. 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act. This legislation would weaken the civil rights of people with disabilities and make it harder for them to be a part of their communities.

H.R. 620 would rip the heart out of this part of the ADA. Businesses would no longer have any reason to make their shops, restaurants, and hotels accessible to people with disabilities. Even if a person with a disability sent a detailed written notice to the business about a physical barrier, he or she might still have to wait 6 months to get access!

Don't roll back the rights of people with disabilities. The ADA is a civil rights law and its protections must remain strong!

Please vote no on H.R. 620."

National Disability Call-In Day (Monday, Feb. 12)

Schedule time to call your Representative on Monday! If you can call every day between now and the vote, please do!

You can call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your Representative. You can use our script to talk to the staffer you are connected with:

Hello, my name is [your name] and I live in Rep. [name] district. My address is [your address].

I am calling to urge Rep. [name] to vote no on H.R. 620.

As a person with a disability/a family member of a PWD/friend of a PWD, I rely on the ADA to ensure that I/my family member/my friend can do the same things that everyone else does--including visit [something you like to do in the community, like go to the movie theater or local restaurants]. H.R. 620 would reduce the civil rights of people with disabilities.

If Rep [name] wants to help business owners and prevent frivolous lawsuits, there are better ways to do it that won't hurt people with disabilities.

Please tell Rep. [name] that this constituent wants him to vote no on H.R. 620.

INSIDER NOTE: If the staffer asks you what those other ways are, say that you urge them to contact the CCD Rights Task Force and to see this letter: <http://c-c-d.org/fichiers/UPDATED-CCD-and-Allies-Letter-of-Opposition-for-The-ADA-Education-and-Reform-Act-of-2017-H.R.620-Sept-7-2017.pdf>.

Also, you can just call and say where you live and that you want Rep [name] to vote no on H.R. 620. That's all you have to say! The vast majority of staffers won't ask you any more questions and if they do, you don't have to answer.

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) also has an excellent factsheet about calling your elected officials here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/fact-sheet-how-to-call-your-elected-officials.pdf>. ASAN has more resources here: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/civic/>.



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National Call-In Day

#NOHR620

MONDAY, 2/12

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**NATIONAL
DISABILITY
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#SAVEADA #NOHR620



Engage on the Day of Social Action (Tuesday, Feb. 13)

On Tuesday, while the Rules Committee hearing is happening, we'll be tweeting about how H.R. 620 will impact people with disabilities. Please join us!

Tell your story!

Like everyone else, people with disabilities visit stores, hotels, doctors' offices, laundromats, restaurants, and other places of public accommodation. They are part of everyday life. Many people have a story about not being able to access a store, restaurant, hotel, or other public space because it was not accessible. Your Representative needs to hear those stories! You can tweet at them or post to their Facebook page! You can also comment on their Facebook posts with your story!

Tweet!

We have a set of sample tweets for you to use! You can tag your representative specifically by including their username at the end of the tweet!

There is no reason, after 27 years, for a business not to comply with the #ADA – We will not wait even longer for enforcement of our civil rights!
<http://bit.ly/2y0VFDk> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA #27YearsTooLong

H.R. 620 undermines the very purpose of the #ADA and harms people w disabilities. #NoHR620 #SaveADA <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> @[Rep. Name] should vote #NoHR620

Letter: The Disability Community stands united in opposition to H.R. 620... #NoHR620 #SaveADA <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> @[Rep. Name] should vote #NoHR620

Fact Sheet: Myths and Truths about the #ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017: <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA

The ill-informed #HR620 requires people w disabilities to jump through many hoops before they can protect their rights: <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA

The “ADA Education and Reform Act” will do nothing to stop frivolous lawsuits. <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA

There are ways to address the problem of unscrupulous attorneys w/out burdening the rights of people w disabilities. <http://bit.ly/2hSS7zd> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA

Listen to Sen. Duckworth: H.R. 620 makes Americans with disabilities second-class citizens again! <http://wapo.st/2GQKUHH> Tell Congress #SaveADA and vote #NoHR620

236 members of @ccd4pwd & Allies Oppose #ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017: <http://bit.ly/2y0VFDk> #SaveADA Tell Congress #NoHR620

#ADA has been around for 27 years - Why should a person have to wait even longer for enforcement of their civil rights? <http://bit.ly/2y0VFDk> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA #27YearsTooLong

H.R. 620 treats civil rights for #PWD differently than the civil rights of other people. THIS IS WRONG. #DontRollBackOurRights <http://bit.ly/2y0VFDk> Tell Congress #NoHR620 #SaveADA

You can also follow and amplify the messages of our partners!

PARTNERS	HASHTAGS
<p>@BazelonCenter @PVA1946 @UnitedSpinal @ACLU @NCIL @DREDF</p>	<p>#NoHR620 #SaveADA #CripTheVote #DontRollbackOurRights #27YearsTooLong</p>