URGENT ACTION NEEDED!
H.R. 620 - ADA Education and Reform Act

H.R. 620, the "ADA Education and Reform Act," quietly passed through the House and was received in the Senate on February 26, 2018. This proposed bill undermines the landmark legislation enacted to protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities.

Under the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III prohibits places of public accommodation (i.e., businesses or service establishments that are generally open to the public) and commercial facilities from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. If an individual with a disability encounters architectural barriers that prevent access to the business or service establishment, Title III provides options for resolution including the filing of a civil lawsuit. Most notably, H.R. 620 seeks to prohibit civil actions based on the failure to remove an architectural barrier to access into an existing public accommodation unless the individual with a disability has taken specific actions. This prevents individuals with disabilities from immediately going to court to enforce their rights and to seek timely removal of the barrier that impedes access.

Understanding these changes is important in the ongoing effort to promote public access for everyone. As an advocate for individuals with disabilities, you are encouraged to review this proposed legislation and weigh in with your comments to your representatives in the Senate so they are aware of the impact of the proposed legislation on individuals with disabilities.

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