



February 14, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**OPPOSE THE “ADA EDUCATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2017” (H.R. 620)**

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we write to express our strong opposition to the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Education and Reform Act of 2017 (H.R. 620).

The Leadership Conference believes in strong and vigorous enforcement of the ADA. Multiple bills have been introduced in Congress that seek to limit the power of the ADA and reduce compliance with the law. We oppose any such efforts, including H.R. 620, to limit the ability of people with disabilities to vindicate their rights in court.

H.R. 620 would impose a burdensome process before people with disabilities could file a civil action for an accessibility violation in a public accommodation case. Such restrictions on the ability of individuals to vindicate their rights do not exist for other protected classes who seek to access public accommodations. Moreover, these restrictions would undermine the compromise between the needs of business owners and people with disabilities that was crafted when the ADA was passed nearly three decades ago. H.R. 620 would upset this careful balance and dramatically shift the burden to access public accommodations from businesses to discrimination victims. The bill would remove incentives for businesses to comply with the law unless and until people with disabilities are denied access and submit the requisite notice. H.R. 620 would lead to the continued exclusion of people with disabilities from the mainstream of society and would turn back the clock on disability rights in America.

**Officers**

**Chair**

Judith L. Lichtman  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families

**Vice Chairs**

Jacqueline Pata  
National Congress of American Indians  
Thomas A. Saenz

Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund  
Hillary Shelton

**Secretary**

Jo Ann Jenkins

**AARP**

**Treasurer**

Lee A. Saunders  
American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

**Board of Directors**

Helena Berger  
American Association of  
People with Disabilities

Kimberly Churches

AAUW

Kristen Clarke

Lawyers' Committee for  
Civil Rights Under Law

Lily Eskelsen Garcia

National Education Association

Fatima Goss Graves

National Women's Law Center

Chad Griffin

Human Rights Campaign

Wylecia Wiggs Harris

League of Women Voters of the  
United States

Mary Kay Henry

Service Employees International Union

Sherrilyn Ifill

NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.

David H. Inoue

Japanese American Citizens League

Derrick Johnson

NAACP

Michael B. Keegan

People for the American Way

Samer E. Khalaf

American-Arab

Anti-Discrimination Committee

Marc Morial

National Urban League

Janet Murguía

UnidosUS

Debra L. Ness

National Partnership for  
Women & Families

Rabbi Jonah Pesner

Religious Action Center

Of Reform Judaism

Anthony Romero

American Civil Liberties Union

Shanna Smith

National Fair Housing Alliance

Richard L. Trumka

AFL-CIO

Toni Van Pelt

National Organization for Women

Randi Weingarten

American Federation of Teachers

Dennis Williams

International Union, UAW

John C. Yang

Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC

AAJC

**Policy and Enforcement**

**Committee Chair**

Michael Lieberman

Anti-Defamation League

**President & CEO**

Vanita Gupta

February 14, 2018  
Page 2 of 2



For these reasons, we urge you to oppose the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Zubrensky, Chief Counsel and Legal Director, at [zubrensky@civilrights.org](mailto:zubrensky@civilrights.org) or (202) 466-3311.

Sincerely,



Vanita Gupta  
President & CEO