Dear Senator (name),

As a resident of Florida and a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, I am writing to ask you to sign onto the attached letter and to ask you not to support the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017. House Bill 620 was recently passed. As a disabled American, I am strongly opposed to this bill or any other that seeks to dismantle the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA has been in existence for nearly 28 years and stands as the most definitive legislation protecting our right to be equal and active participants in society. While this bill does not currently have a Senate number assigned, I wish to express my concerns to you as Washington deliberates and ponders the ramifications to the disabled community.

The chief complaint of those proponents of this ADA bill is businesses are being extorted by spurious lawsuits driven by individuals and attorneys who only wish to gain a monetary benefit without demanding compliance with the ADA. If the aim of the bill is to protect businesses from litigation by filing fraudulent lawsuits, then the bill will not alleviate said lawsuits. Those businesses who believe that monetary damages can be obtained through Title 3 of the ADA are mistaken. These circumstances are predicated on the consequence of those same businesses not paying attention to the publicity surrounding the ADA bill and will not change the views of those who refuse to learn their responsibilities under it. These spurious lawsuits will not go away and this bill will not make them disappear.

Below are a few bullet points I wish you will consider:

* Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was created 28 years ago to protect people with disabilities from discrimination and afford them access to places the general public has access.
* The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 requires the victim to notify the violator and give said violator 180 days to make “substantial progress”. The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 will be the only civil rights act to have such a requirement.
* The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 will erode the ADA in terms of equal access and protection against discrimination for individuals with disabilities.
* The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 will not protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits because Title III of the ADA does not provide for monetary damages.
* The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 will remove incentives for public entities to comply with the ADA.
* Businesses have had 28 years to comply with the ADA.

I strongly urge you not to vote for the Senate version of H. R. 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

(your name)