



# CALIF

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free

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To our Dear Legislators who voted for HR 620:

Thousands of us with disabilities worked very hard in the 80s' and 90s' to push for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, our premier anti-discrimination and civil rights legislation. Many of us went to jail, a good number of us broke our wheelchairs in the shuffle, some of us were roughed up by the police and landed in hospitals—all for the right to access the environment and enjoy the facilities and services long enjoyed by the nondisabled. Finally, we got it passed by President George Walker Bush on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1990. We were there personally as the President signed the bill into law. But our joy was short lived as traditional opposition forces ganged up to assault our civil rights once more.

**You could not have delivered a more hateful blow against Americans with Disabilities than your Yes vote on HR 620, a devastatingly sinister strategy to insult, exclude and destroy the civil rights of people with disabilities on the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)! What a shame! HR 620 is a short sighted maneuver proposed to accommodate those that don't need it at the expense of those who cannot participate in life without it!**

- Just when we're making some progress, albeit slow and painstaking, the physical environment has been transforming with the building of ramps, accessible entrances and hospitable facilities both in the government and public square, you halt our progress;
- Just when we have started traveling after hundreds of years of isolation and exclusion, you threaten our access to local, inter-state and international transportation forcing us back to the confines of home, institutions, making them, once again, virtual prisons;
- Just when the blind can surf the internet and participate in social media, when more accessible websites are being created, when verbal descriptions of most things seen and discernable are positively coming forth, you reverse their progress and cast a devastating darkness on their world;
- Just when the deaf are being accorded more reasonable accommodation through deaf interpretation and many different hearing services enabling

them to have more of life, you cruelly halt their participation and force them toward more isolation because all they see is life moving without context and meaning.

And that's just for starters. There are thousands of other devastating and cruel implications to your Yes vote on HR 620 that will negatively affect millions of people with disabilities! **This anti-disability discrimination is the very thing that the ADA was created to fight against! It is sadly ironic that the very Congress that passed the original ADA is the very governmental body that emasculates it!** This is totally unacceptable and we entreat all our State Senators now to show the House of Representative the better and more creative ways of implementing the ADA more efficiently until we totally obliterate this massive discrimination. We will have to fight this with all that we got.

Sincerely,



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***"Diverse communities, diverse abilities, one human family!"***