



April 15, 2015

Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee  
2426 Rayburn Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers:

On behalf of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), I urge you to show your support for consumer protection, worker safety and health, the environment, civil rights, and economic stability by opposing H.R. 427, the “Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act” and H.R. 1759, the “All Economic Regulations are Transparent (ALERT) Act of 2015.” These misguided bills would jeopardize crucial public protections by further complicating and delaying the rulemaking process.

The REINS Act, introduced by Rep. Todd Young, would require Congress to affirmatively approve all new economically significant regulations before they can take effect. Agencies already rigorously analyze their rules and perform numerous internal and external checks, including a public comment period. H.R. 427 would force a resolution of approval for each major rule through congressional committees. If a resolution is not cleared by committee, approved by both chambers, and signed by the president within 70 legislative days, the rule is nullified. This legislation will threaten our regulatory safeguards by causing unnecessary delay and will effectively mean that no regulations will ever be enacted because it is extremely difficult, if not impossible in today’s political climate, to move any proposed regulation through Congress within a mere 70 days.

The ALERT Act, introduced by Rep. John Ratcliffe, would impose additional and unnecessary reporting requirements on each regulatory agency before a regulation could be promulgated. In addition, H.R. 1759 prohibits any regulation from taking effect until these reporting requirements have been met and made public for at least six months. Rather than increase transparency as the bills’ proponents claim, these reporting requirements would only serve to delay important public protections and waste scarce government resources.

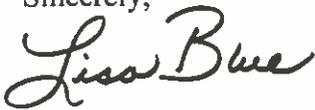
Further delaying the rulemaking process would prove costly. Congress recognized the need for action when it passed laws that delegate to agencies responsibilities for protecting children from toxic toys, families from tainted food, and consumers from financial exploitation. To subject agencies to additional reporting requirements and congressional review would not only be wasteful; it could be damaging or even deadly.

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Both the REINS Act and the ALERT Act are an affront to the idea of separation of powers. Congress already sanctions regulation when it writes federal law. Any agency error or misinterpretation is subject to judicial review. The REINS Act would permit Congress to interfere with the responsibilities of the other branches of government.

AAJ strongly requests that you oppose both bills when they come before the House Judiciary Committee on April 15, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Blue".

Lisa Blue  
President  
American Association for Justice

cc: Committee on the Judiciary