



E-NEWSLETTER

April – June 2008

ADA Amendments Act Moves to the Senate

As many of our readers know, a major effort has been underway this year to update the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The effort comes in response to a number of Supreme Court decisions that have redefined, and in some cases narrowed, the law's application to specific types of disabilities.

The ADA was enacted nearly two decades ago with broad bipartisan support. Among the law's most important purposes was to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination in the workplace.

Although there has been widespread agreement about the need to ensure the law's protections are extended to all those it was meant to cover, there has been equal agreement about the need to avoid too broad an expansion, which would impose costly new mandates and dilute the very protections that are needed.

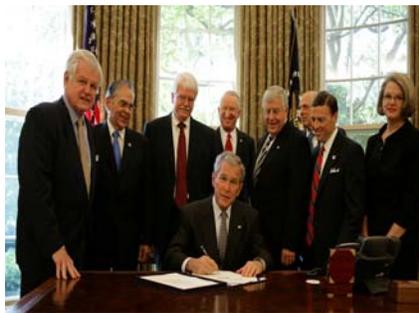


Rep. McKeon speaking at a press conference on the ADA Amendments Act

After months of negotiations among key stakeholders and four House committees of jurisdiction, a bipartisan compromise has been reached. Just last week, the House passed the *ADA Amendments Act* (H.R. 3195) by a vote of 402-17. The bill now moves to the Senate, where it is clear that its passage is the most promising opportunity to enact *strong, balanced* protections this year. [Read more...](#)

2008-2009 Student Lending Season Underway

Amid a still-tumultuous credit market, the 2008-2009 student lending season has officially begun with the traditional July 1st start date. In the coming weeks, it will finally become clear whether Congress has done enough to restore confidence in a market that was badly shaken by the one-two punch of a drastic federal disinvestment and a severe tightening of the credit markets.



President Bush signing H.R. 5715

The most pronounced effort undertaken by Congress was swift enactment of the *Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act* (H.R. 5715), which was signed into law on May 7, 2008 by President Bush. Just last week, the U.S. Department of Education published details of the law's implementation in the Federal Register, offering a blueprint for how the federal student loan program will be kept afloat in the coming year to ensure no borrower is denied access to a student loan. [Read more...](#)

GOP Rallies Support for D.C. Scholarship Program

Earlier this month, top House Republicans called on Speaker Pelosi to support the education funding proposals submitted by the Mayor and the City Council to improve schools right here in our nation's capital, especially through the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

The program provides \$7,500 scholarships to about 2,000 low-income children to allow them to attend the private school of their choice. [Read more...](#)

Republicans Pressing for Family-Friendly Workplaces

Led by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Republicans have introduced the *Family-Friendly Workplace Act* (H.R. 6025) as part of a broader GOP American Families Agenda. The bill will provide greater flexibility to working families by eliminating barriers in federal law that prevent private sector workers from enjoying the benefit of a "family time" option, which would allow workers to choose paid time off as compensation for overtime worked. [Read more...](#)

GOP Economic Plan Good for Students and Workers

House Republicans' economic reform plan, unveiled in June, includes key reforms aimed at fostering innovation in our nation's schools and bolstering American enterprise by easing tax burdens, promoting secure access to affordable healthcare, and helping Americans compete in the global market. [Read more...](#)

Committee Republicans Continuing to Expand Multimedia Presence

In our last issue, we announced the launch of a new [YouTube channel](#) that features key video footage from the Committee. We're pleased in this issue to unveil the newest element of the Committee's multimedia outreach, a [real-time blog](#) launched in beta-form at the beginning of 2008. There, you can read about key issues before the Committee. Please visit us online – we welcome your feedback!