



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Pushing  
Access  
Forward

## Increase Compliance with the ADA

### The Issue

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Enacted into law by President George H.W. Bush, the measure prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in employment, public services, and public accommodations. The ADA stands as the most comprehensive civil rights law affecting people with disabilities ever enacted.

Barriers to employment, transportation, public accommodations, public services, and telecommunications have imposed staggering economic and social costs on American society and have undermined efforts by people with disabilities to receive an education, become employed, and be contributing members of society. As a veterans service organization representing veterans with catastrophic disabilities, PVA strongly supports the ADA. By breaking down the barriers encountered by veterans and all people with disabilities, the ADA enables society to benefit from the skills, talents, and purchasing power of individuals with disabilities.

Despite the resources available to help businesses comply with ADA requirements, the last decade has seen the introduction of legislation that would weaken the ADA by requiring notification to a business about a physical barrier before a person with a disability could enforce his or her rights in court. The requirement for notification would eliminate any need for businesses to proactively comply with the law. PVA opposes the **ACCESS Act (H.R. 4099)** because of the impact it would have on physical access to public accommodations for catastrophically disabled veterans.

Instead, PVA supports legislation that promotes compliance with the ADA by providing additional resources to help businesses comply with the ADA. We support tax incentives to assist businesses with meeting their compliance requirements. We also support legislation that will review the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries' compliance with the ADA to increase access for people with disabilities.

### PVA Position

Congress must pass the following legislation:

- The **Disability Employment Incentive Act (H.R. 3992/S. 255)** would expand tax credits and deductions that are available for employers who hire and retain employees with disabilities and to make their places of business more accessible, including their internet or telecommunications services.
- The **Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act (H.R. 4045/S. 2290)** would increase the tax incentives that help businesses with ADA compliance. Additionally, it would increase funding for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) ADA mediation program and require DOJ to make a report to Congress about the types of requests it receives regarding ADA compliance.
- The **Travel and Tourism for All Act (H.R. 5412)** directs the National Council on Disability to conduct a review of the implementation of the ADA in the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries, and make a report to Congress of its findings.