

Oppose the REINS Act: H.R. 10/S.299

The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (“REINS”) Act (H.R. 10/S. 299), introduced by Rep. Davis (R-KY) and Sen. Paul (R-KY), would undo more than 100 years of safeguards by allowing just one chamber of Congress to block enforcement of existing statutory protections—from worker safety, to public health, to Wall Street reform. This would make Congress the required arbiter of every technical question and business dispute, and would allow a single chamber of Congress to stop any regulation, no matter what the facts showed. *The REINS Act would effectively rewrite virtually every environmental and other regulatory statute, making their requirements unenforceable.*

The House of Representatives, which will soon vote on the REINS Act, should know that this bill would paralyze our government and make it next to impossible to ensure Americans’ health and safety. **REINS is one of the most sweeping and radical bills ever to be considered by Congress.**

The REINS Act is the culmination of a long line of legislation in this Congress with the real goal of undermining our government’s ability to protect its citizens from dangerous pollution and other threats to the public. Far from streamlining government or improving regulatory oversight, the bill would increase uncertainty by throwing every regulatory issue in front of Congress. **More pollution and uncertainty won’t create jobs.**

THE REINS ACT WOULD LEAD TO:

Dirtier Air and Water

The REINS Act would make it almost impossible to set standards critical to ensuring we have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. Blocking these public health protections would lead to tens of thousands of deaths, illnesses, and hospital visits, especially among children and the elderly. For example, blocking long-overdue standards to limit mercury emissions from power plants, industrial boilers, and process heaters for *just one year* could result in up to **23,500 premature deaths.**


More Children Injured by Their Own Toys and Cribs

Lead interferes with the development of the nervous system and is therefore particularly toxic to children, causing potentially permanent learning and behavior disorders, seizures, coma, and even death. To prevent lead poisoning in children, in 2007, the Consumer Product Safety Commission promulgated regulations prohibiting lead in cribs, toys, and other products children come into contact with regularly. If REINS became law, just one branch of Congress could block these sorts of life-saving regulations.

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More Deaths and Illnesses from Foodborne Diseases

In 2006, more than 200 illnesses and three deaths were linked to bagged spinach contaminated with *E. coli*. In 2008, 1,400 people were infected with *salmonella* from serrano peppers grown on a contaminated farm in Mexico. In recent weeks, *listeria* contamination has swept through sixteen states. In order to protect the American public from food contamination, Congress passed a law requiring that large farms' produce handling be regulated, and an inspection system for foreign farms put in place, by 2013. The REINS Act would make it easy for any industry interest to block new regulations, regardless of what experts or the regulatory record might say.

The REINS Act is a radical proposal that would expose hardworking citizens to more illness and economic uncertainty by purposely paralyzing the government. Congress already has the authority it needs to oversee regulations. REINS is not designed to improve oversight, but rather to shut down the system that protects the public.

**A vote for the REINS Act is a vote against the health and well-being of your constituents.
WE URGE YOU TO OPPOSE THIS HARMFUL BILL.**