



March 14, 2017

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations urge you to oppose S. 21, the REINS Act of 2017, and S. 34, the so-called Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017.

The REINS Act would block critical clean air protections. Air pollution can harm anyone's health, but children, seniors, and people living with lung and heart disease are especially vulnerable. Air pollution can even kill. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a track record of cost-effectively saving lives and improving public health under the Clean Air Act. The REINS Act would block or delay critical clean air protections against deadly pollutants, as well as the pollution that causes climate change.

In fact, the REINS Act would permanently weaken every federal agency's ability to implement and enforce the law to protect public health. The current regulatory process is transparent, deliberate, based on independent expertise, and responsive to public input. Federal agencies may take years, listening to extensive public comment, to propose and finalize even non-controversial rules required by laws already passed by Congress. By requiring positive votes in Congress to approve of every single major rule, the REINS Act would add layers of unnecessary reviews and grind the legally required, lifesaving work of federal agencies to a halt, resulting in premature deaths and health problems that could have been prevented.

Under S. 34, Congress could permanently block multiple critical public health protections with a single vote. The bill is based on a misguided perception that rules finalized toward the end of a presidential administration have not been fully formed or vetted. The reality is that these rules, many of which protect public health, are often the product of years of work and public input.

S. 34 would expand the Congressional Review Act to allow *en bloc* disapproval of all regulations finalized near the end of a president's term. The CRA is an extreme tool: it allows Congress to, with a vote of disapproval, not only erase a regulation, but also prevent the federal government from issuing any rule that is "substantially the same" in the future. Allowing an *en bloc* vote to permanently block a group of regulations is reckless and extreme.

Both bills could be used to block lifesaving public health protections that prevent death and disease caused by air pollution. We urge you to oppose these attacks on lifesaving public health protections.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Lung Association

American Public Health Association

American Thoracic Society

Children's Environmental Health Network

Health Care Without Harm

National Association of County & City Health Officials

National Environmental Health Association

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Trust for America's Health