H.R.97

Latest Title: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should take all appropriate measures to ensure that citizens continue to be provided with paper-based information, products and services, and public notices while providing, where appropriate, the ability for all citizens to opt-in to electronic delivery if they so chose.


Latest Major Action: 3/5/2013 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

SUMMARY AS OF:
3/5/2013--Introduced.

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that: (1) the federal government should ensure that citizens continue to be provided with paper-based information, products, services, and public notices while providing citizens the ability to opt-in to electronic delivery; and (2) decisions by federal agencies regarding the elimination of paper-based information, products, or services should be subject to congressional oversight.
Bill Summary & Status
113th Congress (2013 - 2014)
H.RES.97
Cosponsors

Item 1 of 1

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COSPONSORS (5), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: by date)
Rep Bonner, Jo [AL-1] - 3/14/2013

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Contact: Beth Dozier, 202.429.1833, bethdozier@rational360.com

Consumers for Paper Options Applauds Congressional Resolution to Preserve Paper-Based Access to Government Information & Services


WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 5, 2013) – Consumers for Paper Options, a coalition of individuals and organizations advocating for the right to paper-based communications, today applauded a new Congressional resolution to protect access to paper-based options for government services and information. This bipartisan resolution (H.Res. 97), introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Reps. Sean Duffy (R-Wis.) and Mike Michaud (D-Maine), seeks to reverse recent federal initiatives to completely eliminate paper-based information and services, such as Social Security checks and earnings statements, savings bonds and income tax forms.

Federal agencies have been forcing Americans to go “paperless” without public comment or Congressional oversight, despite the fact that millions of Americans cannot access information in electronic formats and cybersecurity threats are on the rise. The Duffy-Michaud resolution seeks to bring these agency decisions under Congressional review, while directing the federal government to ensure that Americans receive paper information and services, unless they specifically choose electronic-only.

“Federal efforts to eliminate paper-based services and information are disenfranchising millions of Americans, including senior citizens, lower income Americans and those who are concerned about cybersecurity threats,” said John Runyan, executive director of Consumers for Paper Options. “More than 30 million American households lack Internet access both at home and at work, and yet our government expects all citizens to e-file tax forms, manage their finances online and purchase savings bonds electronically.”

Runyan continued, “It’s time for Congress to step in and protect equal and appropriate information access for all Americans. We are pleased to see Reps. Duffy and Michaud leading the charge to make federal agencies accountable for their decisions, and to defend the right for Americans to receive government information in whatever means they choose. The federal government has a duty to serve every citizen, regardless of which side of the digital divide they inhabit.”

About Consumers for Paper Options
Consumers for Paper Options is a coalition of individuals and organizations who believe paper-based communications are critically important for millions of Americans, especially seniors and the 30 percent of Americans without Internet access. While regulated entities and governments at every level need to streamline services, cut costs and improve efficiencies, preserving paper-based options for information and essential services for those who need or want them should remain a crucial priority. The goal of Consumers for Paper Options is to preserve access to information in a way that neither hinders the natural evolution of
technology nor discriminates against those who may not, or cannot, use it. For more information, visit www.paperoptions.org.