

The FAIR Act: What Consumer Rights Organizations Are Saying

“There may be no more blatant example of how giant corporations rig our economy and political system than the take-it-or-leave-it, fine print language they insert into the consumer, employment and other contracts we enter into every day. Corporate apologists for arbitration often say it is an alternative venue to obtain justice. In practice, it just means cheated or abused consumers, employees and others are out of luck. But now the jig is up. Today, the House finally stated: No more. People have caught on to big business’ schemes and aren’t willing to put up with them anymore.”

— Robert Weissman, president, Public Citizen

“The House of Representatives passed historic legislation that would end forced arbitration and restore Americans’ constitutional right to be heard by a judge and jury. Forced arbitration allows large corporations to systematically evade accountability when they break the law. When this bill passes both houses of Congress, corporations will no longer be allowed to immunize themselves and silence employees, consumers, nursing home residents, sexual assault survivors and victims of financial fraud. We congratulate all the champions in Congress for their persistence in securing the bill’s passage and thank the tireless victim advocates who bravely shared the harmful impacts forced arbitration has had on their lives. We now urge the Senate to take up this important legislation and restore Americans’ constitutional rights.”

— American Association for Justice CEO Linda Lipsen

“Powerful corporations have stacked the decks against millions of working people and consumers trying to enforce their hard-won rights. The FAIR Act helps level the playing field by allowing aggrieved people to exercise their right to seek justice through the courts and hold bad actors publicly accountable. Without it, forced arbitration leaves the door open to cover-ups of rampant discrimination and civil rights violations by companies trying to escape accountability. Indeed, the most vulnerable working people are also the most likely to be trapped into forced arbitration. We applaud the House for acting and call on the Senate to restore the right of working people and consumers to choose how to enforce their rights.”

— Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights