

# WILLIAM PRYOR ON THE ADA

## Highlights:

- William Pryor said he believed the American Disabilities Act was an unnecessary and illegal mandate.

## **Pryor Said He Believed The American Disabilities Act Was An Unnecessary And Illegal Mandate**

### **PRYOR CALLED THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AN ILLEGAL MANDATE**

#### **2004: More Than 60 Disability Groups Opposed Pryor's Nomination To The Circuit Court, Noting That He Was On The Record Opposing The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), Which He Called An "Illegal Mandate."**

According to Inclusion Daily Express, "Last year, more than 60 disability organizations joined Senate Democrats in opposing Pryor's appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, which handles appeals in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. [...] Disability groups that opposed Pryor's confirmation included the National Coalition for Disability Rights, the National Council on Independent Living, National Association of the Deaf, American Association of People with Disabilities, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Pennsylvania Council of the Blind, and the Independent Living Center of Birmingham, Alabama. In a statement last summer, NCDR president Jim Ward said: "The disability community is opposed to the confirmation of Alabama Attorney General William Pryor because we do not believe a person with a disability would receive a fair hearing from a 'Judge Pryor.'" The groups pointed out that Pryor is on record opposing the Americans with Disabilities Act, which he has called an 'illegal mandate'. 'Pryor has fought aggressively to prevent people with disabilities from enforcing their rights against states under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act,' the statement read. 'Pryor has denied any existence of evidence regarding discrimination by the States -- including documented instances of forced sterilization of individuals with disabilities, unnecessary institutionalization, denial of education and healthcare, and systemic prejudices and stereotyping perpetrated by state actors.'" [Inclusion Daily Express, [2/23/04](#)]

**Pryor Claimed That Congress Passed The ADA As A "Me-Too" Approach And That It Was Unnecessary As Other States Already Had Protections On The Books.** While appearing at Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Chuck Schumer said, "Mr. Pryor's antipathy for the ADA is obvious from the many extra-judicial comments he has made on the subject. At one point he claimed that, quote, 'When Congress passed the ADA in 1990 all 50 States had laws on the books protecting the rights of the disabled. Congress passed the ADA as a 'me-too' approach, not as a way of protecting persons.' Sorry, the quotes are within his statement. 'Congress passed the ADA approach, not as a way of persons who were ignored or left behind,' unquote." [Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, [6/11/03](#)]

### **PRYOR PUSHED TO WEAKEN THE ADA IN A CASE IN WHICH A NURSE WITH BREAST CANCER WAS DEMOTED BY HER EMPLOYER AFTER SHE TOOK TIME OFF TO RECOVER**

**Schumer: Pryor "Was The Driving Force" Behind Convincing The Supreme Court To Weaken The ADA, Involving A Case In Which A Nurse Contracted Breast Cancer, Took Time Off, Then Returned To Find She Had Been Demoted.** While appearing at Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Chuck Schumer said, "Contrast the approach in Bush v. Gore to what happened when it came to the push for the Supreme Court to limit the application of the Americans With Disabilities Act to the States. Mr. Pryor was the driving force behind the Garret case in which a nurse contracted breast cancer, took time off to deal with her illness, and when she returned found that in violation of the ADA she had been demoted. Attorney General Pryor believed the State university hospital where she worked had every right to demote Ms. Garret and managed to convince five Justices on the Supreme Court to agree with him." [Committee On The Judiciary, U.S. Senate, [6/11/03](#)]

