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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide a private right of action for persons harmed by violations of the Franchise Rule of the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To provide a private right of action for persons harmed by violations of the Franchise Rule of the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Franchisee Freedom  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
8       sion of law, any person found to have committed any viola-

tion of part 436 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations,  
or section 3 of this Act, shall be liable to any person  
harmed by such violation for—

(1) actual damages;

(2) additional equitable relief, including rescis-  
sion of any contract and such other equitable relief  
as a court may find appropriate; and

(3) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(b) **JURISDICTION AND VENUE.**—Jurisdiction and  
venue of a civil action under this section shall be concur-  
rent and may be commenced in—

(1) the United States District Court in the dis-  
trict in which the claimant resides; or

(2) in a State court of competent jurisdiction in  
the State in which the claimant resides.

**SEC. 3. RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION.**

A franchisor may not, directly or indirectly, restrict  
a franchisee from associating with other franchisees or  
from participating in a trade association, including by re-  
taliating against a franchisee for associating with other  
franchisees or participating in a trade association.