

## **Fair Courts Act**

When the people engage with the United States court system, there is an expectation that the outcomes produced should be fair and impartial. However, there has been a rising trend of plaintiffs seeking to tip the scales in their favor. They do this by seeking out partisan judges who will further their political causes, in an attempt to receive a favorable ruling for their case. This tactic has been used in many high-profile cases to seek nationwide injunctions against the federal government or set aside the rules established by federal agencies. While injunctions can be useful tools to prevent harm when constitutional rights are violated or agencies act outside their authority, it also leaves room for abuse when left in the hands of politically-motivated judges. To address this rising trend in the weaponization of the court system, Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Deborah Ross are introducing the **Fair Courts Act**. This bill ensures that there will be greater fairness in the federal court system by preventing rogue judges from wielding undue power over millions of Americans. It makes it more difficult for litigants to seek out specific judges, and requires a panel of judges to preside over cases that seek nationwide relief.

### **The Fair Courts Act:**

- Prohibits a district court from granting nationwide relief unless the request is heard by a panel of three judges. This prevents a rogue district judge from making sweeping decisions that could harm millions of Americans, while still allowing for relief to be granted when it is warranted to prevent harm.
- Reins in the ability for litigants to hand pick specific judges to guarantee their preferred outcome, a practice known as “judge shopping,” by requiring certain cases filed in a federal court to be randomly assigned to judges within the district or state where the case was filed.
- Increases transparency in the way that cases are assigned to judges by requiring this information is made available on the district court’s website.