



May 17, 2021

*Via electronic mail*

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

On behalf of the CCD Transportation Task Force, we the Co-Chairs, would like to thank you for introducing the All Station Accessibility Program Act of 2021 or the “ASAP Act”. This measure will provide competitive grants to assist State and local governmental authorities in addressing accessibility needs of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.

Specifically, The Secretary of Transportation may make grants under this section to assist eligible entities in financing capital projects to upgrade the accessibility of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems by increasing the number of existing rail stations that meet the new construction standards of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law over 30 years ago and is a comprehensive civil rights law that gives access to people with disabilities in employment, public services including transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications. Access to transportation is essential to ensuring people with disabilities are able to live in, contribute to and benefit from society.

With the appropriated funds that “ASAP Act” will allocate on an annual basis, this measure will enable legacy transit systems to maximize accessibility. Transit facilities, intermodal centers, rail stations and platforms must meet accessibility standards established by the U.S. DOT. The requirements apply to new construction as well as alterations made to existing facilities and include the following: Accessible paths of travel, boarding ramps and bridge plates, bus stops and shelters, curb ramps, doors, elevators, escalators, emergency alarms, fare collection, gates

and turnstiles, grade crossings, parking, passenger drop-off areas, platforms edges, rescue assistance areas, and restrooms, signs, stairs, public telephones, water fountains, with wheelchair spaces.

Again, thank you for your strong commitment to ensure our countries public transportation new and old meets the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We look forward to working with you to ensure passage of you bill.

Sincerely,

CCD Transportation Task Force Co-Chairs:

Sarah Malaier, American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

Lee Page, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Claire Stanley, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Carol Tyson, Disability Rights, Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

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*The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.*