



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

June 8, 2018

The Honorable James R. Langevin
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: CCD Transportation and Rights TF – Support for the Air Carrier Access
Amendments Act of 2018 (H.R. 5004)

Dear Representative Langevin,

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Transportation and Rights Task Forces write to support the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2018 (H.R. 5004). 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.

Last year, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing to examine consumer safety and satisfaction with air travel in response to a series of horrific air travel incidents. People with disabilities are a consumer group with years of complaints not only about their safety and quality of air travel but also in the lack of enforcement of their civil rights. The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2018 (ACAAA) will strengthen the rights of airline passengers with disabilities and close service gaps frequently encountered in air travel.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) prohibited discrimination based on disability in air travel. Although the ACAA led to improved access for passengers with disabilities, significant disability-related problems persist in air travel. Travelers with disabilities still encounter damaged equipment, delayed assistance, lack of seating accommodations, and other challenges when traveling by air. Airlines reported receiving more than 30,000 passenger filed disability-related complaints in 2016.

The ACAA would increase the original law's protections for passengers with disabilities. Specifically the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act will:

- Strengthen ACAA enforcement to include specific protections of the rights of passengers with disabilities and a private right of action.

- Ensure airplanes are designed to accommodate people with disabilities and airlines meet accessibility standards, including safe and effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements and better stowage options for assistive devices.
- Improve access to seating accommodations.
- Close service gaps in air travel for passengers with disabilities.

The passage of H.R. 5004 will improve the air travel experience of people with disabilities. We look forward to an opportunity to speak with you and your staff on this process. Please contact CCD Transportation Task Force Dara Baldwin of National Disability Rights Network at dara.baldwin@ndrn.org or 202-408-9514 ext. 102 or Heather Ansley of Paralyzed Veterans of America at heathera@pva.org or 202-416-7794.

cc: House Members
Senate Members

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
 American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
 ACCSES
 American Council of the Blind
 American Foundation for the Blind
 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
 Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
 Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund (DREDF)
 EasterSeals
 National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
 National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
 National Disability Institute (NDI)
 National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
 National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC)
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
 TASH
 The American Therapeutic Recreation Association
 The Arc of the United States
 United Spinal Association