



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 23, 2022
via electronic mail

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2021 (S. 642)

Dear Senator Baldwin,

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 2021 (S. 642). 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 free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.

People with disabilities are a consumer group with years of frustration regarding the safety and quality of air travel, and with the lack of enforcement of their civil rights. The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2021 (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.

The ACAAA 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 in all class of service.
- Close service gaps for passengers with disabilities by requiring training of airline personnel who provide physical assistance in boarding and deplaning.

The passage of S. 642 will improve the air travel experience of people with disabilities. We look forward to an opportunity to speak with you and your staff. Please contact CCD Transportation Task Force member Lee Page of Paralyzed Veterans of America at LeeP@PVA.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Civil Liberties Union

American Council of the Blind

American Foundation for the Blind

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Center for Public Representation

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Cure SMA

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Epilepsy Foundation of America

Family Voices

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living

National Disability Rights Network

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The ALS Association

The Arc of the United States

The Viscardi Center

United Spinal Association

cc: Senate Members