



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 23, 2022  
*via electronic mail*

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

Re: Support for the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2021 (H.R. 1696)

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 2021 (H.R. 1696). 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 ACAAAA 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 H.R. 1696 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](mailto: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: House Members