



October 27, 2023

The Honorable Frederica Wilson  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:

On behalf of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Transportation Task Force, we, the undersigned organizations, would like to thank you for introducing the Transportation Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act. Americans with disabilities face a multitude of barriers to transportation. This bill will equip ten Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies with the resources they need to carry out more advocacy in this area.

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 LGBT plus based discrimination and religious intolerance.

Even after more than three decades since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires access to public transit and a comparable paratransit system, significant barriers to transportation remain. A report (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11420/>) put out by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) states that individuals with disabilities are twice as likely than persons without disabilities to have difficulties in procuring necessary and adequate transportation.

When an individual lacks access to transportation, he or she cannot carry out essential tasks such as going to the grocery store, attending medical visits, and traveling to work each day. Additionally, many alternative transportation options that have become widespread are inaccessible. An overwhelming number of rideshare drivers use inaccessible vehicles. Such companies only offer wheelchair vehicles in a few major cities, and, in such cities, the number of accessible vehicles are few and cause passengers to wait longer periods of time to procure a ride.

Paratransit systems also routinely fail to provide adequate transportation for persons with disabilities. Such systems are known to be unreliable and inconvenient for passengers who rely on such transportation to get to work or necessary medical appointments. For instance, some paratransit passengers are forced to ride for hours before they are finally dropped off at their destination, consuming a large fraction of their day.

Other components of accessible transportation can be neglected. Under the law, buses are required to announce bus stop names or lower the bus for persons with physical disabilities. However, transit personnel can forget to carry out such responsibilities or the pertinent technology can be neglected and fall into disuse. Advocacy is often necessary to keep such accommodations active.

This bill will equip ten agencies with necessary resources to combat such forms of discrimination. The five year demonstration grants will allow P&As to advance access to transportation for Americans with disabilities. Thank you again for introducing this important piece of legislation. The undersigned organizations support the bill as allies in the disability rights community.

Sincerely:

American Council of the Blind (ACB)  
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)  
Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network (AWN)  
Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)  
National Association of the Deaf (NAD)  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)  
Respectability  
United spinal