

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen,

The undersigned organizations write to express our appreciation and support for your efforts to improve the air travel experience of passengers with disabilities in the bipartisan, bicameral FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. The accessibility provisions included in the bill represent another crucial step forward in the movement to ensure that all passengers with disabilities, including disabled veterans, have safe and dignified access to air travel.

We are pleased that the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 includes several provisions focused on addressing the experience of air travel passengers with disabilities as advocated for by our organizations. These provisions were also part of the House-passed H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, and S. 1939, the FAA Reauthorization Act. Specific sections in the bipartisan, bicameral bill include training requirements for assisting passengers with limited mobility and properly stowing assistive devices; analyzing and improving the Department of Transportation's (DOT) complaint process and funding; addressing the need for more access standards and accessibility of inflight entertainment, as well as improved access to airline websites, applications, and information communication technologies; and increasing access to seating accommodations.

We also appreciate the requirement for continued study into safe and secure in-cabin wheelchair tie-down systems, and if technically feasible, a study into their economic and financial feasibility; the need for DOT to perform a more in-depth analysis of airline-reported mishandled wheelchair data; and reauthorization of the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory (ACAA) Committee, as well as a requirement for the ACAA Committee to ensure safe transport for assistive devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. In addition, we were pleased to see the inclusion of a pilot grant program to increase airport accessibility, new requirements related to the availability of onboard wheelchairs, expansion of the Advanced Materials Center of

Excellence to address safe and accessible air travel for passengers with disabilities, and the creation of a known service animal pilot program.

Thank you for working to improve the needs of passengers with disabilities in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. We look forward to continuing to work with the committees on further efforts, including stronger enforcement of the ACAA, to ensure the safety and dignity of passengers with disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Ansley, Chief Policy Officer, Paralyzed Veterans of America, at 202-416-7794 or by email at HeatherA@PVA.org.

Sincerely,

All Wheels Up
ALS Association
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Council of the Blind
The Arc of the United States
Blinded Veterans Association
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Cure SMA
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Easterseals
Hand in Hand
Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
I AM ALS
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Association of the Deaf
The National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Federation of the Blind
National Health Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
The Seeing Eye, Inc.
United Spinal Association
Wounded Warrior Project