

July 17, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

The undersigned organizations write to express our appreciation for disability-related provisions included in the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935). These provisions represent an important step toward addressing the barriers people with disabilities, including disabled veterans, experience in air travel.

Disability discrimination in commercial air travel is prohibited by the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA). Although the ACAA did improve the consistency of the air travel experience, it has not resulted in equal treatment for people with disabilities. Passengers with disabilities often experience damaged assistance devices, lack of seating accommodations, inaccessible communications, inadequate assistance, denial of access for service animals, and even injuries in the boarding and deplaning process. These barriers limit or even deny the opportunity for people with disabilities to travel by air for employment, health care, recreation, and other opportunities.

We are pleased that the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act includes meaningful provisions that focus on the concerns of air passengers with disabilities. Some key provisions include training requirements for assisting passengers with limited mobility and properly stowing assistive devices; improving the Department of Transportation's complaint process; addressing the need for more access standards; and requiring continued study into safe and secure in-cabin wheelchair restraint systems. Although not included in the current bill, we support the addition of language that would address seating accommodations, facilitate service animal access, and require training and public education regarding access to onboard wheelchairs.

Thank you for including provisions about the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities in H.R. 3935. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on addressing disability-related barriers in air travel. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Ansley, Chief Policy Officer with Paralyzed Veterans of America, at 202-416-7794 or by email at [HeatherA@PVA.org](mailto:HeatherA@PVA.org).

Sincerely,

The ALS Association  
American Council of the Blind  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Cure SMA  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
I AM ALS  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Association of the Deaf  
The National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Federation of the Blind  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
United Spinal Association  
Wounded Warrior Project