

The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act

Sen. Tammy Baldwin & Rep. Dina Titus

For over 35 years, the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) has prohibited discrimination based on disability in air travel. Despite this progress, too many travelers with disabilities encounter significant barriers, such as damaged assistive devices and wheelchairs, delayed assistance, unclear communications, and lack of onboard accommodations.

The Air Carrier Access Amendments Act will protect the rights of disabled airplane passengers, improve air travel safety, and ensure individuals with disabilities have equal access to the skies by:

- Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to assess civil penalties for Air Carrier Access Act violations and refer patterns of discrimination to the Department of Justice;
- Granting individuals with disabilities a private right of action in civil court;
- Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to formulate standards to address effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements, in-flight entertainment, seating accommodations, lavatories, and stowage options for assistive devices; Five years after the standards are finalized, airlines would need to operate aircraft that comply with them.
- Ensuring all covered gates, counters, ticketing areas, and customer services desks are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Supporting Organizations

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, Cure Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, National Association of the Deaf, American Council of the Blind, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Jewish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), I AM ALS (IAA), Epilepsy Foundation of America, All Wheels Up, National Federation of the Blind, Hand in Hand: the Domestic Employers Network, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), United Spinal Association, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), The American Legion, Blinded Veterans Association, Judith Heumann LLC, AMVETS, ALS Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Student Veterans of America, The Arc of the United States, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), American Cochlear Implant Alliance, Consumer Federation of America, Hearing Loss Association of America

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Ben Hutterer in Sen. Baldwin's office at Ben_Hutterer@baldwin.senate.gov or Mitch Moonier in Rep. Titus' office at Mitch.Moonier@mail.house.gov.