

How to Improve Air Travel For Wheelchair Users

**Thursday, March 29, 2018
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**

Presenters:

**Alexandra Bennewith, MPA
VP, Government Relations**

**Meghan Ladwig, Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)**

**Peter La Fountain, Legislative Assistant &
Elyssa Malin, Legislative Assistant
Office of Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI)**

Presenters



Meghan



Elyssa



Alex



Peter

Who We Are

United Spinal Association is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all people living with a spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D).

www.unitedspinal.org

Programs & Services

- Advocacy – Federal and State
 - Roll on Capitol Hill
- Resource Center
- New Mobility Membership Magazine
- Chapters, Support Groups, Rehabilitation Facilities & Hospital Partners
- Products & Service Directory
- Accessibility Services

Poll Question #1

- Have you had a negative experience flying a commercial airline?
- Yes/No

Don't Roll Back our Rights

<http://www.newmobility.com/2017/12/flying-unfriendly-skies/>

**Kenny Salvini,
United Spinal
member,
Washington
State**



Don't Roll Back our Rights

- United Spinal Survey/Wheelchair Damages & Air Travel
- Average no. of times passengers w/disabilities experience wheelchair damage
 - 1-3 times
- Common Examples of damage:
 - broken caster wheels, broken or damaged footrest, armrest, joystick

Don't Roll Back our Rights

- United Spinal Association is a member of the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America's Standards Committee on Air Travel
 - Co-Chair, Handling Procedures for Wheelchairs to be Stored and Transported in Commercial Aircraft
 - Other Co-Chairs: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Airlines for America
- United Spinal/PVA Survey on Consumer Flight Experiences:
 - Almost 82% of respondents said they did not know where to find information about how to keep their wheelchair from being damaged while it is being stowed

RESNA Standards Committee

Additional working groups:

- Vocabulary and Definitions for Assistive Technology and Air Travel
- Information Collection and Traveler Instructions
- Labeling and Design Requirements for Wheelchairs Designed for Storage and Transport in Commercial Aircraft

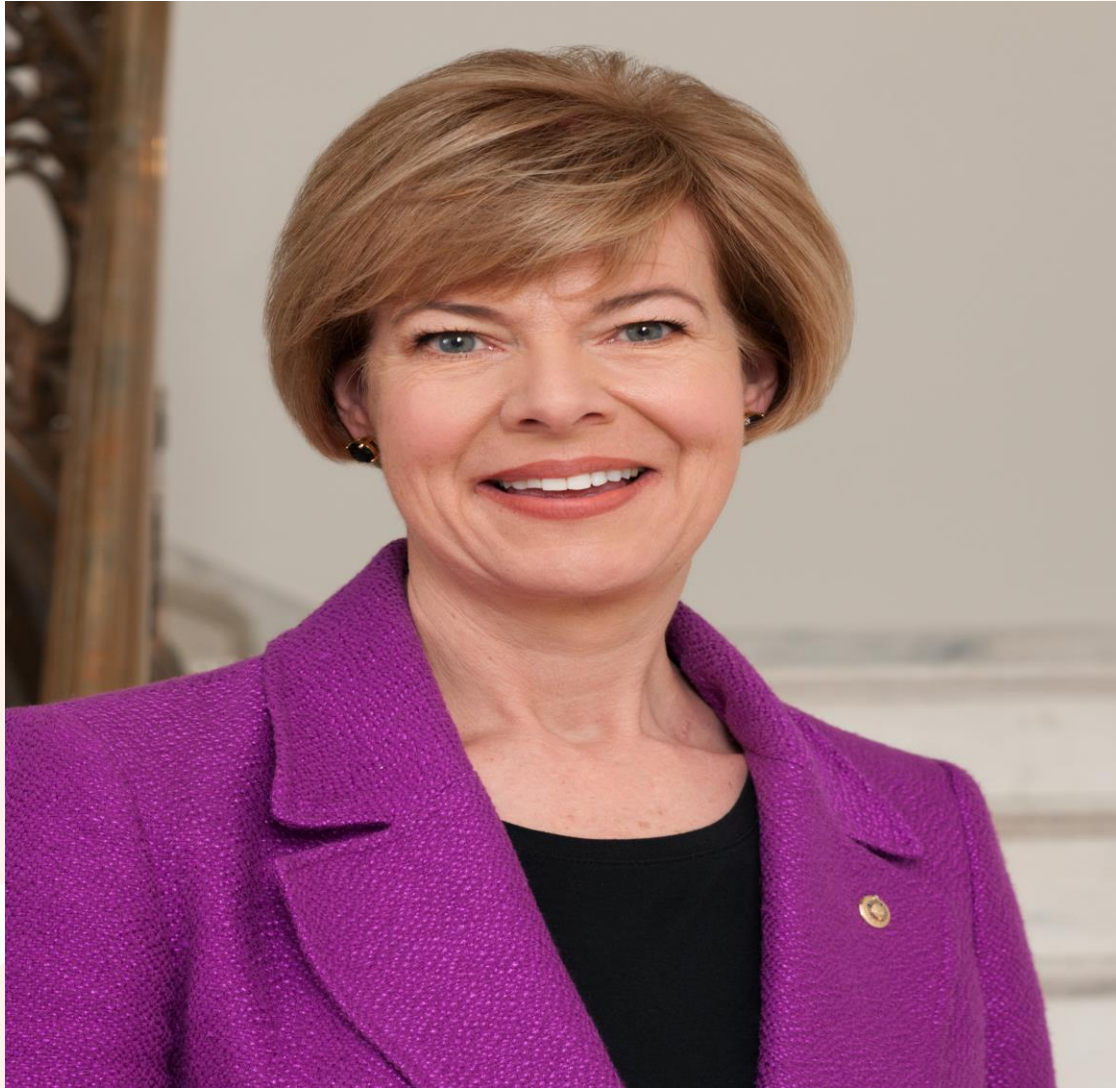
Poll Question #2

- Were the airlines and/or airline crew helpful?
- Yes/No

Air Carrier Access Amendments Act

- increases penalties for damaged wheelchairs, and allows air travelers to sue in court to recover damages.
- ensures higher standards for accessibility, safety and airport and airline employee training.
- helps create a passengers with disabilities bill of rights along with a Federal advisory committee on the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities.

Air Carrier Access Amendments Act



Senator Tammy Baldwin, D-WI

Committees:

- **Appropriations**
- **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
- **Health, Education, Labor & Pensions**

Air Carrier Access Amendments Act

Rep. Jim Langevin, (D-RI)



Committees:

House Armed Services Committee

House Committee on Homeland Security

Caucuses, Co-Chair:

Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus

Career and Technical Education Caucus

Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus

Congressional Directed Energy Caucus

Congressional Olympic & Paralympic Caucus

Congressional Submarine Caucus

Air Carrier Access Amendments Act



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Air Carrier Access Amendments Act



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**Peter La Fountain, Legislative Assistant
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How You Can Help

Take Action!

<https://unitedspinal.org/air-travel-rights/>

#ACAAA, #airtravelrights



Join the Rolling Revolution!

June 24-27, 2018

- Roll on Capitol Hill is United Spinal's annual legislative advocacy event that addresses issues that impact the health, independence and quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other paralyzing conditions.
- Approx. 150 members from across the country advocate for legislation that improves the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries and other paralyzing conditions.
- Issues to be discussed include:
 - Improve Air Travel for Passengers with Disabilities
 - Protect the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Save healthcare benefits: prescription drugs; assistive and rehab technologies; medical supplies as well as community supports and services

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/events/roll-on-capitol-hill/>

How You Can Get Involved

Membership Program

- <https://www.unitedspinal.org/join-united-spinal-association/>

Newsletter Subscriptions

- <https://www.unitedspinal.org/newsletter-sign-up/>

Questions



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