Take Back our Air Travel Rights – Air Carrier Access Amendments Act

- Requires the Secretary of Transportation to assess civil penalties for Air Carrier Access Act violations and refer patterns of discrimination to the Department of Justice; and grants individuals with disabilities a private right of action in civil court;
- Requires 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.
- Ensures all covered gates, counters, ticketing areas, and customer service desks are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Ask Representatives to co-sponsor (support) and pass H.R. 1267 introduced by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-1st) and ask Senators to co-sponsor (support) S. 545 introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) to provide consumer protections and assistance in air travel for passengers with disabilities.

Accessible Ground Transportation – Disability Access to Transportation Act

- Establishes a paratransit pilot program that allows for an additional stop, as part of a current paratransit trip, to locations such as childcare or education facilities; pharmacies; grocery stores; and bank or ATM locations.
- Requires U.S. Access Board to publish final public rights of way guidelines setting minimum standards to ensure that sidewalks, pedestrian street crossings, pedestrian signals, and other facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by wheelchair users and individuals with mobility disabilities.
- Requires an active link to the service provider’s website, a telephone number, notice that a consumer can file a disability-related complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); an active link to the OCR FTA website and notice that an individual can file a disability-related complaint with the local transit agency with stated processes and timelines for filing complaints.
- State; metropolitan or rural transportation planning organizations can capture data for an accessibility data pilot program to measure population access in varied geographical locations with multiple transportation modes such as buses, trains, including rides provided by transportation network companies and rideshare companies to destinations such as employment; health care facilities; childcare services; educational and workforce training facilities; housing; food sources; for all people including people with disabilities to assess accessibility and transportation funding and infrastructure needs.

Ask Representatives to co-sponsor (support) and pass H.R. 3845 introduced by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV 1st) and ask Senators to cosponsor (support) S.1813 introduced by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) to establish increased accessible transportation options for people with disabilities.

Disability Community Independence – need full review of mobility device benefit

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has denied and delayed coverage of needed mobility equipment for use outside the home due to a restrictive interpretation of their National Coverage Determination for Mobility Assistive Equipment regarding the mobility device equipment for everyday activities such as eating, bathing, dressing ‘in the home’.
- Support Medicare coverage for standing systems in power wheelchairs which allow users to transition from seated to standing positions; allows for independent performance of everyday activities in the home with medical benefits (improved joint mobility and muscle tone; increased strength and bone density; enhanced cardiovascular and respiratory functions; reductions in falls, neck and spine injuries, skin breakdowns, spasticity, and muscle contractures).
- Conduct a full review of the current mobility device benefit’s coverage, coding and payment policies to allow for access to mobility devices that meet the needs of full-time wheelchair users both in the home and/or in the community.

Ask Representatives to sign on to the House Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus Dear Colleague letter, led by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6th) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA 1st). Ask Senators to support a legislative or regulatory fix to the mobility device benefit per the House letter.