



Make today a breakthrough.

August 3, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

As the leading national organization that represents individuals with a neuromuscular disease known as spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), **Cure SMA asks that the U.S. Senate vote on Senator Duckworth's amendment to the bipartisan infrastructure bill to improve public transportation accessibility for individuals with SMA and other disabilities who use powerchairs and other mobility devices.**

Many people with SMA use power wheelchairs given SMA impacts muscle strength and their ability to walk. Individuals with SMA who rely on public transportation for work and school and to access their community often face accessibility barriers and unequal transportation options. For example, a 34-year-old woman with SMA largely avoids the legacy subway system in her area due to accessibility challenges. She often travels one or two subway stops away from her intended destination due to inaccessible stations and broken elevators.

Cure SMA is pleased that the bipartisan infrastructure bill includes funding for the All Stations Accessibility Program to improve the accessibility of legacy rail fixed systems by increasing the number of existing accessible stations or facilities. The Duckworth amendment would require cities and other entities who receive program funding to adopt plans to maximize accessibility of stations and facilities and improve the operation of their public transportation system for people with disabilities, including those who utilize wheelchairs. This commonsense amendment should be adopted and included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Please ensure that the Duckworth amendment related to the All Stations Accessibility Program section is voted on during the bipartisan infrastructure bill debate. Thank you for considering the views of Cure SMA and individuals with SMA who rely on legacy rail fixed systems. For more information, your staff can contact Maynard Friesz, Vice President for Policy and Advocacy at Cure SMA, at maynard.friesz@curesma.org or 202-871-8004.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hobby
President
Cure SMA

Maynard Friesz
Vice President of Policy & Advocacy
Cure SMA