



Cure SMA Applauds USDOT's Airline Passengers Bill of Rights

Cure SMA, the national organization that represents individuals with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and their families across the United States, released the following statement on the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) publication of the [Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights](#).

"Cure SMA applauds USDOT for releasing an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights that outlines the fundamental rights of people with SMA and other disabilities when traveling by air. The 10-point summary of existing law will help inform air travelers with SMA of their rights when flying and help hold airlines and their contractors more accountable for upholding the law and regulations that govern air travel.

Increasing accessibility and improving the air travel experience for people with SMA and other disabilities are top priorities for Cure SMA. Adults with SMA and families of children with SMA regularly report damage to their wheelchairs, injuries during the onboard transfer, and other challenges, including inaccessible lavatories, when traveling by air. One adult with SMA who travels regularly for work described four consecutive flights that rendered his power wheelchair unusable and a fifth flight where the chair required onsite repairs.

Cure SMA is working in Congress to help make air travel safer and more accessible for individuals with SMA, including the ability of passengers with SMA to roll their wheelchairs directly onto the airplane. In the meantime, the Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights represents an important step forward to achieving our goals around accessible air travel for people with SMA.

About the Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights:

This Bill of Rights describes the fundamental rights of air travelers with disabilities under the Air Carrier Access Act and its implementing regulation. The Bill of Rights, which can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/disabilitybillofrights>, consists of 10 key points:

1. The Right to Be Treated with Dignity and Respect.
2. The Right to Receive Information About Services and Aircraft Capabilities and Limitations.
3. The Right to Receive Information in an Accessible Format.
4. The Right to Accessible Airport Facilities.
5. The Right to Assistance at Airports.
6. The Right to Assistance on the Aircraft.
7. The Right to Travel with an Assistive Device or Service Animal.
8. The Right to Receive Seating Accommodations.
9. The Right to Accessible Aircraft Features.
10. The Right to Resolution of a Disability-Related Issue.

For more information about Cure SMA's efforts to improve air travel for people with SMA, go the Cure SMA Advocacy at <https://www.curesma.org/advocacy/> or contact Cure SMA Advocacy at advocacy@curesma.org.