



MAKE PARKING MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SMA

Increase the percentage of accessible parking spaces in parking lots and garages

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many individuals with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a neuromuscular disease, use an accessible vehicle that can accommodate their power wheelchairs to navigate their neighborhood, community, and beyond ([Cure SMA](#)).
- To meet the equal access mandate under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), public and private entities must provide accessible parking spaces in their parking lots and garages that meet specific features related to size, location, and slope. ([Americans with Disabilities Act](#))
- Under ADA standards, only 1 in 25 spaces (4%) are required to be accessible in smaller lots under 100 spaces. The percentage drops even further, to a mere 2%, for large lots over 501 spaces. ([Americans with Disabilities Act](#))
- Only 1 in 6 accessible spaces are required to be van-accessible, making it even more challenging for individuals with disabilities with wheelchair-accessible vehicles to find suitable parking. ([Americans with Disabilities Act](#))
- Despite the growing aging and disability population in the U.S., parking standards were last updated in 2010, making them outdated in addressing current accessibility needs. ([US Access Board](#))

CURE SMA POSITION

To promote community access and participation for all individuals and families with SMA and other disabilities, Cure SMA urges cities and states to:

- Increase the number of accessible parking spaces available, especially van-accessible spaces, with the goal of at least 10% of all parking spaces in lots and garages, regardless of size.
- Maintain accessible parking spaces to meet or exceed ADA requirements, including keeping access aisles clear and ensuring spaces remain in good condition.
- Regularly update accessible parking standards to reflect the evolving needs of the disability community.

WHY STATES & CITIES SHOULD ACT

Accessible parking is essential for the mobility and independence of individuals with SMA and other disabilities. Ensuring an adequate number of accessible parking spaces allows them to participate fully in community life, work, education, and recreational activities. Individuals with SMA often struggle to find accessible parking due to non-disabled drivers parking illegally, placard fraud, construction disruptions, and blocked access aisles. A mom of a child with SMA shared, “It is a daily struggle for our family to find parking for our van with a wheelchair lift.” Cities and states can address this transportation barrier through

new standards and requirements that expand accessible parking spaces, especially van-accessible spots, and better monitoring and enforcement to ensure that parking spaces and access aisles are properly maintained and free from obstructions.



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[Cure SMA](#) is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.