



April 26, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: S. 545 and H.R. 1267, Air Carriers Access Amendments Act of 2023

Dear Senator Baldwin and Representative Titus:

On behalf of the members and supporters of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), we strongly support S. 545/H.R. 1267, the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2023.

HLAA is the nation's leading organization representing the growing number of people with hearing loss in the U.S. Its mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. HLAA fights for the rights of people with hearing loss at local and national levels and offers support online and in chapters across the country.

Nearly 48 million Americans need hearing aids, cochlear implants and related hearing health care to effectively manage their hearing loss. This is particularly the case when traveling through airports and on airplanes where critical information is communicated at the departure gate and onboard the aircraft. When this information is not effectively conveyed, unnecessary anxiety is endured potentially resulting in missed flights or worse. For example, a person with hearing loss could miss crucial gate change information or in-flight safety information that is only provided over a loudspeaker. Efforts by that person to obtain that information could be interpreted as being disruptive and being misperceived as a security threat.

We particularly support language in S. 545/H.R.1267 that requires standards for aircraft and airports to provide visually accessible announcements and access to aural communications. We are also pleased to see that both air carriers and the U.S. Department of Transportation will provide information about filing complaints on their websites. In addition, permitting a private right of action within two years of a violation of the ACAA would provide relief in the most egregious cases.

We are hopeful that S. 545/H.R. 1267 can be included in the upcoming reauthorization legislation for the Federal Aviation Administration and look forward to working with you and others to move this forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Kelley".

Barbara Kelley
Executive Director