













# YEAR IN REVIEW





# **U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Introduces Legislation** to Protect Rights of Disabled Airplane Passengers

Over 30,000 airplane passengers, including many disabled veterans, filed disability related complaints with airlines last year. Specifically, the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act will:

- Strengthen ACAA enforcement to include specific protections of the rights of passengers with disabilities and a private right of action.
- Ensure airplanes are designed to accommodate people with disabilities and airlines meet accessibility standards, including safe and effective boarding and deplaning, visually accessible announcements and better stowage options for assistive devices.
- Improve access to seating accommodations.
- Close service gaps in air travel for passengers with

Source: https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/press-releases/aircarrier-access-amendments-act

### FEMA Issues Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet: People with disabilities require additional disaster preparation.

Source: https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/09/26/factsheet-people-disabilities-require-additional-disaster-preparation

## **Midterm Elections Produce Encouraging Signs for Medicaid and Progressive Health Care Policy**

(November 8, 2018) — National Health Law Program. Source: https://healthlaw.org/midterm-elections-produce-encouragingsigns-for-medicaid-and-progressive-health-care-policy/



# Accessibility

### U.S. Access Board Resolves 43 Architectural **Barriers Act Cases in FY 2018**

The U.S. Access Board was created in part to enforce the first federal law to address accessibility, the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968. This law requires access to buildings or facilities that were designed, built, or altered with federal dollars or leased by federal agencies. The Board also maintains the guidelines upon which the ABA Standards are based. With passage of other laws, including the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Board's mission has expanded significantly. It is now responsible for developing and keeping up to date accessibility requirements for the wide array of facilities covered by the ADA, as well as for transportation vehicles and systems. It also issues standards for information and communication technology and for medical diagnostic equipment. In addition to these duties, the Board continues the important work of enforcing the ABA. Enforcement is accomplished by the investigation of complaints from the public. Filing a complaint with the Board is easy to do and can be done through an online form, which can be filed anonymously.

In FY 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018), the Board resolved 43 cases through corrective action. This included: U.S. Postal Facilities (30 cases), Military and Veterans Affairs Facilities (4 cases), Parks and Historic Sites (2 cases), and Internal Revenue Service (2 cases). Enforcement action occurred related to other facilities, including the Federal Correctional Institution (Tallahassee, Florida); the Drug Enforcement Administration (Tucson, Arizona); the Federal Communications Commission (Columbia, Maryland); the General Services Administration (Kansas City, Missouri); and the Federal Aviation Administration (Washington, DC).

# Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. 7344 Stockman Street Cheyenne, WY 82009 (307) 632-3496 Voice or Relay (800) 624-7648 (Clients Only) (307) 638-0815 FAX

# BE CLOSED

DECEMBER 21, 2018 — OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON DECEMBER 24-25, 2018 — OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY



