
Association for Airline Passenger Rights Celebrates 25th Anniversary of the Air Carrier Access Act; Groundbreaking law made air travel more accessible for passengers with disabilities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 9, 2011) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (AAPR) today celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 (ACAA). The law laid the foundation for making air travel more accessible for persons with disabilities, and to this day continues to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities.

ACAA prohibits domestic air carriers from discriminating against persons with disabilities in the provision of air transport. **The law states that persons with disabilities will have access to all services, goods and information that they provide to any other passenger as part of their normal operating practices and forbids air carriers from treating passengers with disabilities any differently than other passengers except in making the necessary accommodations.**

“The Air Carrier Access Act literally opened the doors to aviation travel for millions of passengers with disabilities in the United States who were previously left grounded by inaccessible aircraft, airports and other facilities,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “Passengers with disabilities not only deserve the same accessibility standards as non-disabled flyers, but they also represent an important consumer base for the airline industry. The law has not only benefited passengers with disabilities, but it has benefited the aviation industry as a whole.”

Said AAPR Board Member **Carmen Jones**, “The Air Carrier Access Act is groundbreaking legislation, which really focuses on consistency of service delivery for flyers with disabilities and their families. It gives them the security of knowing that airlines have to serve them equitably and accessibly when traveling domestically and abroad (for US-based carriers); and ensures that people with disabilities are fully integrated.”

AAPR is the only airline consumer rights group promoting improved accessibility for passengers with disabilities.

“The Air Carrier Access Act ranks among the most significant civil rights triumphs in our nation’s history,” U.S. Transportation **Secretary Ray LaHood** said in a statement today. “Unlike 25 years ago, when passengers with disabilities frequently suffered degrading and discriminatory treatment from airlines, today air travelers can be assured of fair and equal treatment regardless of disability.”

For more information about the Association for Airline Passenger Rights or the Air Carrier Access Act, please visit www.flyfriendlyskies.com or contact AAPR directly at info@flyfriendlyskies.com.

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About AAPR: The Association for Airline Passenger Rights is a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote fairer customer service and accessibility standards in the airline industry and to improve passenger satisfaction. AAPR was formed in response to growing dissatisfaction among American consumers toward the airline industry.