

July 23, 2026

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave McCormick
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth and Senator McCormick,

On behalf of individuals and families impacted by spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), **Cure SMA thanks you for reintroducing the All Stations Accessibility Program Reauthorization Act (ASAP Act)**. Your legislation reaffirms a basic commitment to people with SMA and other disabilities that rely on public transportation to get to work and school and to take part in their communities.

SMA is a neuromuscular disease that affects muscle strength and, for many people, the ability to walk, leaving them to depend on power wheelchairs and other mobility devices. It affects both children and adults in all 50 states. For these individuals, accessible public transit is essential. Accessible vans are expensive, and public transit can be the best affordable and accessible option. Yet people with SMA who depend on legacy rail systems often encounter inaccessible stations, missing elevators, and unequal transportation options. **One man with SMA shared,** *"Although my city has a large metro system, often elevators are broken, or platforms are accessible in one direction but not the other. It is not a dependable or accessible form of transportation."* One **woman with SMA** largely avoids the legacy subway system in her area because of these barriers, and often travels one or two stops past her intended destination when a station is inaccessible or an elevator is out of service. Experiences like hers are common across the SMA community.

The ASAP Act would help close these gaps. It would provide competitive grants to state and local governmental authorities to upgrade the accessibility of legacy rail fixed guideway systems, increasing the number of stations that meet or exceed the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reauthorizing the ASAP Act would give transit agencies the continued funding they need to bring aging stations into compliance and ensure that riders with disabilities are no longer left behind by the systems their communities depend on. *"Living in a city where the metro station is fully accessible, gives me the confidence to travel without worrying about barriers to accessibility"* **shared a woman with SMA.**

Cure SMA and the SMA community thank you for your leadership in advancing accessible transportation. We look forward to working with you and your staff to move this important legislation forward. If you have questions, your staff can reach out to Cure SMA through Sarah Bellish, Senior Manager of Policy and Advocacy at Cure SMA, at 202.871.8005 or sarah.bellish@curesma.org.

Sincerely,



Maynard Friesz
Vice President of Policy & Advocacy
Cure SMA



Sarah Bellish
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Cure SMA