

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

The Airline Information and Entertainment Access Act – S.3333

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Why do we need the Airline Information and Entertainment Access Act?

All airline passengers deserve access to in-flight information and entertainment options that are made available to paying customers, regardless of their disabilities. On many flights, much of the information provided to passengers comes from shared or seat-back video displays. People with sensory disabilities (e.g., blindness or deafness) may not have access to safety information and the entertainment available to all other passengers. Access to airline services is not subject to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Instead, airlines are subject to the regulations of the Air Carriers Access Act (ACAA) of 1986 and its amendments. Currently, however, the ACAA does not address requirements for access to information or entertainment for people with disabilities.

What will the Airline Information and Entertainment Access Act do?

The Airline Information and Entertainment Access Act will ensure equal access to safety information announcements, general in-flight announcements and entertainment services for all airline passengers regardless of their disabilities. The Act will require:

- A captioning option on all videos displaying safety information and entertainment programming on any air carrier.
- An American Sign Language option on videos displaying in-flight information or entertainment programming on any air carrier.
- Air carriers to ensure audio descriptions of videos are available for people with disabilities.
- Controls systems for video displays to have a nonvisual operating option.

Co-sponsor: Sens. Blumenthal, Baldwin, Markey, Brown, Duckworth

Supporting Organizations:

National Association of the Deaf, National Federation of the Blind, Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Foundation for the Blind, Deaf West Theatre

For more information, or to cosponsor, please contact Jasmine Goodman at Jasmine_Goodman@aging.senate.gov