

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Submitted electronically via www.regulations.gov

**RE: Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies Automated Vehicles 4.0,
Docket No. DOT-OST-2019-0179**

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Transportation Task Force, United Spinal supports the Task Force's comments submitted in response to the U.S. Department of Transportation's

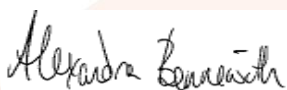
(DOT) *Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies: Automated Vehicles 4.0* (AV 4.0). Specifically, United Spinal calls your attention to the Task Force's Autonomous Vehicle Principles which repeatedly underscore the need for wheelchair accessibility, a paramount need and concern of our members.

United Spinal continues to promote the research and development of a truly universally accessible autonomous vehicle platform design and we support DOT's efforts to this end included in AV 4.0. This includes but is not limited to:

- DOT's Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI), a joint USDOT initiative, co-led by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office;
- National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research's (NIDILRR) Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Physical Access and Transportation at Carnegie Mellon University research work on "potential reference designs and vehicle interior concepts intended to promote and facilitate the accessibility of AVs for persons with disabilities;"
- NIDILRR's Research Project on Optimizing Accessible Public Transportation, at the State University of New York–Buffalo, and;
- A planned Inclusive Design Challenge.

United Spinal appreciates the opportunity to comment on AV 4.0 and DOT's continued efforts to create a substantive dialogue with our members and the disability community at large. If you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Kent Keyser, Public Policy Fellow at kkeyser@unitedspinal.org.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Bennewith, MPA
Vice President, Government Relations

Encl.: CCD Transportation Task Force Autonomous Vehicle Principles, December 3, 2018
<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Transp-TF-AV-Principles-120318.pdf>