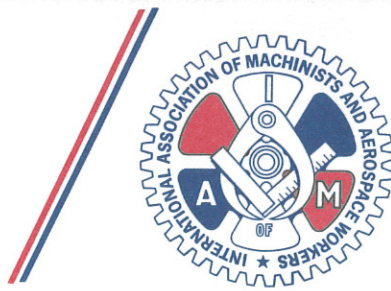


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



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Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 12, 2015

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers ("IAM") and the thousands of flight attendants that we proudly represent, we strongly urge Congress to pass a multi-year FAA Reauthorization bill that increases the rest requirements for flight attendants to the same 10 hour minimum rest provided to commercial airline pilots and to create a Fatigue Risk Management Plan ("FRMP") which specifically addresses the chronic fatigue that plagues our nation's flight attendants.

The current FAA rest minimum for flight attendants, even after a 14 hour duty day, is 9 hours, which can be reduced to 8 hours. This "rest period" includes but is not limited to the actual boarding process, deplaning passengers, exiting the airport, travel to and from the hotel, transiting the aircraft, performing required aircraft safety equipment checks and being ready for passenger boarding up to an hour before the first flight of the day. Even in the best of circumstances, an 8 hour break provides a rest opportunity of less than 6 hours. The FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute ("CAMI") recently released a report which concluded that changes to the flight attendant work rules are necessary and that reform is needed to combat fatigue. The CAMI report recognized several contributing factors to flight attendant fatigue, including scheduling and missed meals.

In response to our serious concerns with flight attendant fatigue, the IAM is seeking a 10 hour rest from arrival to departure, which would provide flight attendants the opportunity for 8 hours of actual rest. A 10 hour minimum rest for flight attendants would harmonize rules with the airline pilot rest requirement and with International recommendations for duty and rest. Congress should also require the FAA and commercial airlines to develop and implement a Fatigue Risk Management Plan specific to flight attendants that follows the existing FRMPs for flight crews.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President