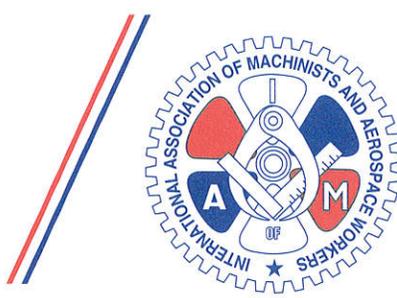


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 10, 2016

Dear Representative,

**As the President of the largest airline union in North America representing over 100,000 airline workers, I respectfully ask you to vote “YES” to an amendment being offered by Representative John Garamendi to the Aviation Innovation Reform Reauthorization Act of 2016 “AIIR,” H.R. 4441. This amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bill would simply make it a felony to assault an airline customer service representative, including a gate or ticket agent while on duty.**

Due to the nature of their employment, which includes interacting with the flying public, dealing with angry airline passengers, in some cases working alone and enforcing airline regulations, these workers are vulnerable to horrific criminal acts. Airline workers are being assaulted on a daily basis. Airline passengers who are upset about paying more for airline tickets and fees, lost luggage, flight delays and cancellations are taking their frustrations out on innocent airline workers who are simply trying to do their job. Their injuries in some cases are life altering.

When airline workers are assaulted in the course of performing their duties, the safety of every individual at the airport is placed in immediate jeopardy. With increased airline ridership, more innocent people are at risk each day.

Under the current law, it is a “felony” to assault a flight crew member such as an airline pilot or flight attendant. This amendment would simply add customer service representatives to the current statute without any cost to the consumer or commercial airlines. It would also send an important message to workers that we are not turning a blind eye to these assaults and would act as a deterrent for violent behavior toward all airline workers.

Again, we ask that you support the Garamendi amendment to the FAA bill and upgrade the penalties for assaulting airline workers.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-5902 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org)

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President, IAMAW