



IAM
UNION

International Association of Machinists
& Aerospace Workers

CONGRESS SHOULD ENSURE ENFORCEMENT OF FAA REAUTHORIZATION LAW

The IAM is urging members of Congress to ensure proper implementation of several key provisions included in the bipartisan FAA Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law in May 2024 to help improve the working conditions and provide additional safety for air transport workers and passengers.

The IAM, the largest air transport union in North America, fought hard for several pro-worker provisions in the 2024 law to help improve conditions for its members that includes ramp workers, customer service agents, flight attendants and more.

The enacted FAA Reauthorization Act includes several important IAM-led provisions intended to offer some positive means to ensure the safety and well-being of workers and passengers. **The impact of this law is only as good as its implementation.**

Provisions the IAM strongly advocated for and now urging full implementation include:

- **Ramp Worker Safety Call to Action** to study and find solutions to improve safety for airline ramp workers. This is intended to help halt the unfortunate trend of recent ramp worker injuries like the February 2025 incident at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in which an IAM-represented ramp worker at United Airlines was seriously injured in a collision between a plane and a tug vehicle. This is one of several injuries reported each year, including deaths in recent years.

“At least five airline workers have been killed and countless more injured on airport tarmacs in the last two years. Now, it is time for the FAA to complete and implement its congressionally mandated study on ramp worker safety to help our industry improve the safety of airline ramp workers,” said IAM Air Transport Territory General Vice President Richie Johnsen. “The IAM Union is urging legislators to prioritize FAA reauthorization provisions that include ramp safety improvements before another incident occurs at one of our U.S. airports.”

- **Strengthening protections for workers, including the FAA's authority to enforce employee assault and prevention plans** to help ensure workers at the service counter have heightened protections from the rise in assault of unruly passengers. There have been countless videos posted on social media of airline workers at places such as the ticket counter harassed or physically abused by unruly passengers. A post on social media just weeks ago showed a United Airlines gate agent being punched by a passenger at Washington Dulles International Airport.

“Across the country, airline customer service representatives continue to face physical assaults, including being punched, kicked, struck by thrown luggage, and having their clothing ripped. Some of these attacks have resulted in life-altering injuries,” said IAM International President Brian Bryant. “These employees, who are already under immense stress as frontline workers, should not have to endure the constant threat of abuse and physical harm from unruly passengers.”

- **Robust airplane maintenance standards** to ensure strengthened FAA oversight of commercial airline repair facilities outside the United States. This includes unannounced FAA inspections of foreign repair stations, set minimum qualifications for mechanics and other workers, including drug testing and background checks. Hundreds of aircraft maintenance and repair stations have been certified by the FAA outside the U.S. The current lack of uniform regulatory standards and oversight sets an unlevel field with carriers increasingly enticed by the financial incentives to push this work overseas. This has resulted in job losses in the U.S. and risks passenger safety. There should be a uniform level of maintenance requirements whether in the U.S., or overseas. Our IAM members are tasked with this critical job of maintenance here in North America and it's simply unfair that they are forced to compete with the lower standards of work done at foreign facilities.
- **Improved cabin air quality** by mandating the FAA to evaluate cabin air quality, and establish a new method for reporting fume and smoke events for crewmembers, and take action to address any relevant safety risks.

The IAM urges Congress to ensure federal agencies are abiding by the new law and enacting measures in the FAA Reauthorization Act intended to improve conditions for both workers and passengers.