



Support the Passenger Rail Crew Protection Act! (H.R. 8894, S.3665) **BIPARTISAN**

Introduced by Sens. Duckworth (D-IL) and Hoeven (R-ND) and Reps. Gillen (D-NY) and Van Drew (R-NJ), the bipartisan Passenger Rail Crew Protection Act (PRCPA) would improve public safety and address violence aboard passenger trains and commuter rail services. **The PRCPA would address the increasing assaults and attacks on passenger and commuter rail workers by providing them with similar protections that Congress extended to airline crew members, so that these assaults can be charged as a federal offense.**

Background:

Under current law, any assault against a rail crewmember is adjudicated under the laws of the local jurisdiction where the attack or assault occurs. These assaults threaten the safety not just of individual employees but of train operations and every passenger aboard the train. Unfortunately, prosecuting offenders who commit onboard assaults can be difficult. Intercity passenger trains can pass through multiple – sometime dozens - of jurisdictions, each with its own law enforcement force, prosecutors, and courts. In some cases, it may not even be possible to determine in which jurisdiction an assault occurred on a moving train.

Prosecution is further complicated by the nature of it occurring in an intercity transportation mode as the assailants often don't live in the jurisdiction where the crime occurs – frequently resulting in offenders never showing up in court.

Administration support:

Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has made crime prevention and improving public safety on Amtrak a priority. He met with the organizations representing Amtrak employees earlier this year about a multitude of issues including customer service and public safety and expressed support for this bill. Similarly, the Federal Railroad Administration is supportive of this effort to tackle public safety on Amtrak and commuter rail. Amtrak, while unable to take a position given their status as a government agency, has said this bill would make it easier to prosecute offenders they currently have a hard time prosecuting.

Our ask: Cosponsor H.R. 8894 or S. 3665

To cosponsor, please contact Jon Older in Rep. Gillen's office (Jon.Older@mail.house.gov) or Amber Moore in Sen. Duckworth's office (Amber.Moore@duckworth.senate.gov).

Endorsing orgs: American Association of Railroads (AAR), SMART-TD, Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), Transportation Communications Union/IAM (TCU), Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLET)-International Brotherhood of Teamsters, UNITE HERE