



July 13, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), and as the largest air transport union in North American, **I urge you to vote YES on passage of the bipartisan Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935).**

The IAM represents a hard-working diverse membership of more than 100,000 air transport workers from customer service agents to ramp workers and flight attendants. While the bill, H.R. 3935, does not address all the IAM's demands in an FAA reauthorization package, it does include several of our requested provisions and will ultimately help improve the safety and working conditions of our air transport members. This includes improved cabin air quality, robust airplane maintenance standards and efforts to help thwart the unfortunate string of airline worker assaults and deaths in recent years.

This FAA reauthorization package is presented for a floor vote in the House of Representatives amid a rise in volume of travelers and growing calls to help prevent deadly ramp worker incidents like the American Airlines' worker who died at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, Texas in April. That incident was just months after a Piedmont Airlines' ground crew worker was killed while working at Alabama's Montgomery Regional Airport in December 2022.

The bill H.R. 3935 includes an Administrator "Call to Action" for ramp safety review and has a process for stakeholder feedback, best practices, and a report to Congress. There's also clarity on the FAA's authority to enforce the mandatory Employee Assault and Prevention Response Plan. While most airlines have submitted plans in response to this mandate in the FAA's 2018 reauthorization law, the federal agency does not believe they currently have the authority to enforce them or hold airlines who do not submit such plans accountable.

The H.R. 3935 also includes the agency's oversight of commercial repair stations outside the U.S., helping ensure high-quality standards at such facilities and lessen offshoring of U.S. jobs. The IAM has been fighting for years to pass such legislation that would ensure aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul is performed by the best aircraft mechanics in the world under a standardized set of rules for U.S. carriers. This helps ensure the safety of passengers and workers by holding foreign aircraft repair and maintenance to equal standards.

The IAM also opposes any proposed amendments that would change the current Reagan National Airport (DCA) Perimeter-Slot Rule. We agree with the current federal mandate that limits number of flights at DCA to ensure safe operations, limit congestion and traffic, reduce noise, and maintain a strategically and operationally balanced, two-airport system with Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Again – the IAM supports this legislation H.R. 3935 that is intended to improve safety and working conditions, and we urge your support for its passage in the House.

If you have any questions, please contact IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at 301-967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
IAM International President