



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

June 25th, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), the Flight Attendant Union representing 27,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines, thank you for your continued support of aviation workers. Our Union is grateful for the Payroll Support Program (PSP) included in the CARES Act, which has kept our front-line workers on the job and out of the unemployment lines. This legislation was the only lifeline for over two million aviation workers.

Through these turbulent times, Flight Attendants, pilots, gate agents, mechanics, and other staff maintained their employment. Critically, this has kept APFA members connected to their paychecks and health insurance amidst a pandemic. It has mitigated what could have been an even worse economic disaster. When passenger flight levels return to normal, our workforce will be credentialed, trained, and ready to accommodate the increased demand. At the same time, the PSP has ensured that no more significant stress is put on our nation's faltering economy. By retaining employees now, we have assured that our aviation industry is prepared to lead the economic recovery in the months ahead.

The PSP is no industry bailout; it is historic legislation that prioritized critical front-line workers. APFA and our labor partners adamantly insisted that any federal assistance to the aviation industry flow through to the thousands of men and women who make our airlines run—not just a few executives at the top. That is why we are especially proud of the CARES Act, as it put limits on executive compensation, dividends, and stock buybacks while protecting jobs.

Most importantly, the PSP included a moratorium on layoffs through the end of September. We are all aware that without it, many of us would not have a job today. The countless stories I have heard from our members paint a potentially grim picture. Aviation workers would have defaulted on mortgages, would not be able to afford crucial medical expenses for family members, and would have been forced to forgo mental health services, among other hardships during these stressful times.

Airline management now has its eyes on September 30th. This is when many aviation families' lives might be turned upside down, when management could potentially, and likely will, furlough tens of thousands of aviation workers. Our members are uneasy, not knowing what the future holds for our families.

Congress must plan for what comes next. We cannot allow thousands of aviation workers to draw on unemployment insurance and expect to achieve economic recovery. As you consider relief legislation, I urge you to remember the thousands of transportation workers, Flight Attendants included, who continue to put themselves in harm's way during the pandemic to ensure that critical air travel operates. We can create the solution before the problem spirals out of control into avoidable and irreparable harm.

Time is running out, so we urge Congress to pass a clean extension of the PSP through March 31st, 2021, before the summer recess. An extension of the PSP would allow the program to continue seamlessly- additional applications or agreements by Treasury or the air carriers would not be required. This is the clearest, fastest, and most straightforward way to support aviation workers and stabilize the industry.

Thank you for supporting the thousands of aviation workers who work hard every day to keep our country moving. We are ready to be a part of the recovery when it comes, but we need your support until that day arrives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Hedrick".

Julie Hedrick, National President

Association of Professional Flight Attendants

CC: Senator Roger Wicker
Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Sam Graves