International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Jerry Carl U.S. House of Representatives 1330 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-0101

Dear Congressman Carl:

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 write to urge passage of the bicameral bill (H.R. 3935) to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The IAM proudly 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 provisions like employee assault prevention and response plan standards, increased scrutiny of foreign maintenance and repair stations working on U.S. aircraft to ensure uniform safety and support for U.S.-certified aircraft mechanics, improved cabin air quality and a ramp worker safety "call to action."

This legislation offers some positive means to ensure the safety and well-being of workers and passengers. For instance, we've witnessed the increase in passenger attacks towards aviation workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've also witnessed the string of tragic accidents and fatalities of ramp workers like in April 2023 when an American Airlines' ramp worker died while working on the tarmac at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, Texas. Policy changes are needed and this FAA reauthorization legislation, while not perfect, offers many much-needed positive changes for passenger and worker safety and helps transform this vital industry into the future.

For the above reasons, the IAM strongly supports the FAA Reauthorization bill (H.R. 3935) and urges your support for its passage into law.

For questions, please contact IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or <u>hsolomon@iamaw.org</u>.

Sincerely,

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Brian Bryant IAM International President