



Communications Workers of America
Claude Cummings Jr. | *President*

Government Affairs Department
Dan Mauer | *Director*

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chair Cantwell,

On behalf of the members and officers of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing in strong support of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. When enacted into law, this bill will provide strong new protections for workers and travelers.

Importantly, this bill contains multiple important provisions that will protect the dignity and safety of passenger service agents on the job. Too many agents working on the tarmac have fallen victim to tragic accidents on the job in recent years. The FAA Reauthorization Act creates a Ramp Worker Safety Call to Action that will help address the dangers facing workers on the tarmac, including directing the FAA to create new training and education materials, and enabling the FAA to ensure that ramp workers receive needed training to remain safe on the job.

Meanwhile, the bill provides new protections to prevent assaults against passenger service agents. The bill clarifies that rules outlawing assaults against security screening personnel apply to airport or air carrier employees performing ticketing, check-in, baggage claim, or boarding functions, as Congress originally intended. Passenger service agents continue to face frequent attacks on the job from irate passengers, so this provision will provide much needed protections.

We are also pleased to see the bill's direction of a GAO review of the domestic airport service workforce. For far too long, both airports and airlines have exploited and underpaid many service workers, notwithstanding the huge profits that those workers enable for their employers. This review should provide additional clarity on these challenges to enable Congress to remedy these systematically unfair wages going forward.

The FAA Reauthorization Act also provides important protections for flight attendants and other crewmembers on the job. The bill will help secure long overdue protections to ensure that crewmembers who are nursing can pump as needed on the job. It also will help ensure that cabin air quality and temperature are both safe for crewmembers and passengers.

Finally, we are pleased to see that the bill builds on the terrific rule recently enacted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) ensuring that passengers receive refunds after lengthy delays. CWA strongly supports DOT's rule and is appreciative that, through this bill, Congress is codifying into statute the right of passengers to receive refunds if they face lengthy delays. Doing so ensures that passengers will remain protected even under any future administration that is not as supportive of the rights of employees and passengers.

Thank you for all of your hard work in bringing this pro-worker, pro-consumer bill to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Mauer".

Dan Mauer
Director of Government Affairs
Communications Workers of America (CWA)