

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2021

Mr. Doug Parker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines
P.O. Box 619616
DFW Airport, TX 75261

Dear Mr. Parker:

Thank you for American Airlines' efforts in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Federal, state, and local law enforcement to curtail unruly passenger behavior across our Nation's aviation ecosystem. As you are undoubtedly aware, this unacceptable conduct threatens the safety of flight crews and passengers and poses yet another challenge to the recovery of air travel. We therefore urge you to require American Airlines crew members to attend TSA-led self-defense training and provide them with paid time, travel, and accommodations for that purpose, so that they are equipped with the skills to deter and mitigate dangerous situations should the need arise.

As you may know, TSA resumed offering its Crew Member Self Defense Program in July after pausing the course due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ This voluntary, no-cost training is led by Federal Air Marshals to teach crew members how to defuse tense situations and defend themselves during physical altercations with passengers. Presently, flight attendants and other members of the flight crew who wish to attend this training must do so outside of work hours and secure travel and lodging at their own expense. Requiring this training and providing compensated time, travel, and accommodations to participate would communicate to American Airlines' workforce that your company is making crew member and passenger safety its highest priority during these challenging times.

Though we all hope most flight crew members will never have to employ the skills they learn in this course, the disturbing increase and intensity of disruptive incidents aboard planes has accentuated the need for such training. It is our hope that you will require and provide for flight crew members to attend this training as part of your ongoing efforts to uphold safety and restore consumer confidence in air travel.

Please respond to the Committees by January 11, 2022 to indicate whether you will support this initiative. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

¹ "TSA to restart flight crew self-defense training," Transportation Security Administration, press release (Jun. 24, 2021) <https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2021/06/24/tsa-restart-flight-crew-self-defense-training>.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



PETER A. DEFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Maritime Security
Committee on Homeland Security



RICK LARSEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2021

Mr. Ed Bastian
Chief Executive Officer
Delta Air Lines
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dear Mr. Bastian:

Thank you for Delta Air Lines' efforts in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Federal, state, and local law enforcement to curtail unruly passenger behavior across our Nation's aviation ecosystem. As you are undoubtedly aware, this unacceptable conduct threatens the safety of flight crews and passengers and poses yet another challenge to the recovery of air travel. We therefore urge you to require Delta crew members to attend TSA-led self-defense training and provide them with paid time, travel, and accommodations for that purpose, so that they are equipped with the skills to deter and mitigate dangerous situations should the need arise.

As you may know, TSA resumed offering its Crew Member Self Defense Program in July after pausing the course due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ This voluntary, no-cost training is led by Federal Air Marshals to teach crew members how to defuse tense situations and defend themselves during physical altercations with passengers. Presently, flight attendants and other members of the flight crew who wish to attend this training must do so outside of work hours and secure travel and lodging at their own expense. Requiring this training and providing compensated time, travel, and accommodations to participate would communicate to Delta's workforce that your company is making crew member and passenger safety its highest priority during these challenging times.

Though we all hope most flight crew members will never have to employ the skills they learn in this course, the disturbing increase and intensity of disruptive incidents aboard planes has accentuated the need for such training. It is our hope that you will require and provide for flight crew members to attend this training as part of your ongoing efforts to uphold safety and restore consumer confidence in air travel.

Please respond to the Committees by January 11, 2022 to indicate whether you will support this initiative. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

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BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



PETER A. DEFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Maritime Security
Committee on Homeland Security



RICK LARSEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2021

Mr. Gary C. Kelly
Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Airlines
P.O. Box 36611
2702 Love Field Drive
Dallas, TX 75235

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for Southwest Airlines' efforts in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Federal, state, and local law enforcement to curtail unruly passenger behavior across our Nation's aviation ecosystem. As you are undoubtedly aware, this unacceptable conduct threatens the safety of flight crews and passengers and poses yet another challenge to the recovery of air travel. We therefore urge you to require Southwest Airlines crew members to attend TSA-led self-defense training and provide them with paid time, travel, and accommodations for that purpose, so that they are equipped with the skills to deter and mitigate dangerous situations should the need arise.

As you may know, TSA resumed offering its Crew Member Self Defense Program in July after pausing the course due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ This voluntary, no-cost training is led by Federal Air Marshals to teach crew members how to defuse tense situations and defend themselves during physical altercations with passengers. Presently, flight attendants and other members of the flight crew who wish to attend this training must do so outside of work hours and secure travel and lodging at their own expense. Requiring this training and providing compensated time, travel, and accommodations to participate would communicate to Southwest Airlines' workforce that your company is making crew member and passenger safety its highest priority during these challenging times.

Though we all hope most flight crew members will never have to employ the skills they learn in this course, the disturbing increase and intensity of disruptive incidents aboard planes has accentuated the need for such training. It is our hope that you will require and provide for flight crew members to attend this training as part of your ongoing efforts to uphold safety and restore consumer confidence in air travel.

Please respond to the Committees by January 11, 2022 to indicate whether you will support this initiative. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

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BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



PETER A. DEFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation and
Maritime Security
Committee on Homeland Security



RICK LARSEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2021

Mr. Scott Kirby
Chief Executive Officer
United Airlines
233 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Thank you for United Airlines' efforts in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Federal, state, and local law enforcement to curtail unruly passenger behavior across our Nation's aviation ecosystem. As you are undoubtedly aware, this unacceptable conduct threatens the safety of flight crews and passengers and poses yet another challenge to the recovery of air travel. We therefore urge you to require United Airlines crew members to attend TSA-led self-defense training and provide them with paid time, travel, and accommodations for that purpose, so that they are equipped with the skills to deter and mitigate dangerous situations should the need arise.

As you may know, TSA resumed offering its Crew Member Self Defense Program in July after pausing the course due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ This voluntary, no-cost training is led by Federal Air Marshals to teach crew members how to defuse tense situations and defend themselves during physical altercations with passengers. Presently, flight attendants and other members of the flight crew who wish to attend this training must do so outside of work hours and secure travel and lodging at their own expense. Requiring this training and providing compensated time, travel, and accommodations to participate would communicate to United Airlines' workforce that your company is making crew member and passenger safety its highest priority during these challenging times.

Though we all hope most flight crew members will never have to employ the skills they learn in this course, the disturbing increase and intensity of disruptive incidents aboard planes has accentuated the need for such training. It is our hope that you will require and provide for flight crew members to attend this training as part of your ongoing efforts to uphold safety and restore consumer confidence in air travel.

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Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



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