



# Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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May 29, 2019

Dear Senator,

On behalf of more than 150,000 members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU), I am writing to encourage you to cosponsor the *Cabin Air Safety Act of 2019* (S. 1112). This bill addresses a major public health crisis onboard our aircraft.

Several important pieces of equipment are required to create breathable air inside our airplanes at 40,000 feet above sea level. When working properly, this machinery is a testament to the innovative nature of flight and the prowess of our aircraft mechanics who build and maintain these systems. However, when these critical safety items fail, they can create noxious gases which sicken cabin crew and passengers. For example, earlier this month a commercial flight was forced to make an emergency landing due to a "toxic fume event" which sent one passenger to the hospital. Another flight was cancelled after boarding when eight passengers required medical attention due to toxic air in the cabin.

Despite these dire warning signs, our aircraft have no sensors to detect when systems may be malfunctioning in this way. Furthermore, due to difficulties in reporting processes, we lack the data necessary to make informed operational and aircraft design decisions to mitigate this problem. For airline workers potentially exposed to these fumes on a daily basis, these gaps in our aircraft regulations can pose life-threatening health risks including brain damage and loss of motor functions.

S. 1112 addresses these problems by requiring training for crew members on how to identify and report fume events onboard aircraft, as well as requiring airlines to report when these events occur. The bill also requires sensors to be installed onboard our aircraft, as technology becomes available, in order to detect poisonous gases like carbon monoxide that can make people ill during flight.

The *Cabin Air Safety Act* will keep our skies safe and healthy for all who fly. The TWU urges you to cosponsor S. 1112 by contacting Thomas Story (thomas\_story@blumenthal.senate.gov) in Senator Richard Blumenthal's office. Please reach out to Zack Tatz (ztatz@twu.org) at 202-719-3881 with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Samuelson  
International President