



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

John Samuelson
International President

Alex Garcia
International Executive
Vice President

Jerome Lafragola
International
Secretary-Treasurer

Curtis Tate
International Administrative
Vice President

Mike Mayes
International Administrative
Vice President

"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

VICE PRESIDENTS

Delisa Brown
Willie Brown
Dale Danker
John Feltz
Debra Hagan
Tom Lenane
Thom McDaniel
Gary Peterson
Andre Sutton
Tony Utano
James Whalen

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John Chiarello
LaTonya Crisp
Richard Davis
Derick Echevarria
Horace Marves
Benyoel Morgan
J.P. Patafio
Nelson Rivera
Kevin Smith

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bedennia Barnes
Carlos Bernabel
Richard Boehm
Jon Bradford
Constance Bradley
Dino Centrone
Brian Connors
Brian DeLucia
Cassandra Gilbert
Victor Gonzalez
Amy Griffin
Vanessa Jones
Tim Hughes
Theotis James
Shirley Martin
Michael Massoni
Jeffrey Mitchell
Gus Mohgrabi
Lyn Montgomery
Thomas Murray
Paul Navarro
Emmanuel Paragios
John Parrott
Earl Phillips
Dan Rivera
Richard Rocco
Peter Rosconi
Armando Serrano
Robert Taylor III
Donald Yates

May 29, 2019

Dear Representative,

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* (H.R. 2208). This bipartisan bill, led by Representatives John Garamendi and Pete Stauber, 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.

H.R. 2208 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 H.R. 2208 by contacting Iain Hart (Iain.Hart@mail.house.gov) in Representative Garamendi's office. Please reach out to Zack Tatz (ztatz@twu.org) at 202-719-3881 with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Samuelson
International President