

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As you know, no sector of our economy has been immune to the adverse impacts of COVID-19. We appreciate your leadership in passing four bipartisan legislative stimulus packages that have provided much needed relief to Americans and our economy.

Despite the extensive support included in these legislative packages, specifically under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the aviation industry continues to incur massive financial losses impacting its employees, consumers and communities across the United States.

The Payroll Support Program (PSP), authorized by the CARES Act, has proven to be an extremely successful program by providing payroll support directly to almost one million aviation workers and preventing airlines from conducting layoffs and service suspensions through September 30, 2020.

COVID-19 continues to impact our nation and the economy. Consequently, the aviation industry has been unable to chart a sustainable path for recovery and explicitly expressed the need for a clean authorization of PSP before it expires at the end of September. In a letter to Congress, dated July 21, 2020, the Air Line Pilots Association International said, "Absent a clean reauthorization of the program, hundreds of thousands of aviation employees will lose their jobs through no fault of their own, as travel demand will remain sluggish well into 2021."

As we approach PSP's expiration on September 30, airlines have started to make tough decisions. American Airlines recently announced its decision to temporarily suspend service to 15 airports across the United States beginning October 7 until November 3 as a result of decreased demand and in anticipation of PSP's expiration. Most significantly, American Airlines noted in its announcement that "this is the first step as American continues to evaluate its network and plans for additional schedule changes in the coming weeks." If

Congress does not act soon, airlines could be forced to continue to suspend or permanently end service to cities across the nation.

Additionally, airlines have begun issuing involuntary staffing reduction notices effective October 1, or the day after PSP expires. These layoff announcements could result in the loss of nearly 100,000 jobs.

Airports play a significant role in our communities, including providing employment, promoting tourism, and supporting the local economy. In smaller communities, the loss of service from one airline could lead to the demise of an entire airport. As our country continues to weather the impacts of COVID-19, small communities across the nation need every resource and opportunity possible to support their local businesses and stimulate their local economies.

It is important to also consider the significant impact reduced air service has on our national security. When pilots are furloughed, it is incredibly time consuming and expensive to get them back in the cockpit given the constant training and certification checks they are subject to under current regulations. While airlines are responsible for transporting individuals for both work and leisure, they play an indispensable role in carrying mail, medicine and other supplies across the country that are critical to combatting this pandemic. Furthermore, the Transportation Security Administration routinely ceases and resumes operations at airports if there is no commercial service, complicating airports' security measures.

For these reasons, we ask you to strongly consider the inclusion of a clean extension of the PSP in any future COVID-19 relief legislation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D
Member of Congress



G.K Butterfield
Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Bill Long
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress