



ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS-CWA, AFL-CIO

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Dear Senators:

Leader McConnell's plans for loans to the aviation industry will lead to mass layoffs and furloughs now, and more harm to workers later.

First, airlines will not be able to keep workers on payroll even with government loans. Second, loans of that size will saddle airlines with so much debt that it will lead to bankruptcy and workers (who are right now on the front lines of this virus) will be hurt again.

Federal money designated for payroll keeps people on the job and connected to their healthcare. The aviation industry is not executives. We are real people: Flight Attendants, pilots, screeners, baggage handlers, ramp, cabin cleaners, airport workers, catering workers and many more. And we are taxpayers.

A real relief plan has to put workers first - always - but especially in the middle of a public healthcare crisis. Federal aid designed for payroll is the only way to prevent massive layoffs. Loans won't cut it. Keep aviation workers and as many people as possible out of the unemployment line so that we can narrow the numbers on who need federal assistance that way.

We can't help fight the virus by putting people out of their jobs. Leader McConnell's plan means lost jobs, lost healthcare. More people suffer today, and well into the future.

Without direct aid to airlines designated to cover payroll for aviation workers, nearly a million workers are facing furloughs and layoffs - cut off from healthcare in the middle of a pandemic. Our plan stops that.

This is NOT another bailout for the airlines and giant corporations. In addition to the payroll grants, airlines and others will need loans to maintain the system. We hold corporations receiving aid accountable by banning practices like stock buybacks, executive bonuses and dividends, and keeping union contracts intact.

This matters for everyone, for the whole economy. Nearly every aviation worker must have security clearances and training. If we're laid off, it will take months or years to rehire, extending the hurt to real people who just need to go to work and care for our families.

Mitch McConnell is standing in the way. Under his plan, airlines and airports will cut jobs, and the debt they'll take on will lead to bankruptcies that will further hurt frontline aviation workers while executives get a free pass.

Sincerely,

Sara Nelson  
International President

AVIATION'S FIRST RESPONDERS

