

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

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

As you enter into negotiations regarding legislation to further address the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to urge you to extend the extremely successful Payroll Support Program (PSP) included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136), which saved the jobs of 950,000 of frontline airline industry workers such as mechanics, baggage handlers, gate agents, catering workers, flight attendants, and pilots, among others. Roughly 750,000 of these women and men work directly for airlines, and at least 200,000 work for airline contractors and clean cabins, prepare meals, and handle baggage, among other things.

The PSP—a novel program in which the government effectively passes paychecks to airline industry workers through their employers—will keep workers on the payrolls and off unemployment lines through September 30, 2020. But while time marches on, so does the pandemic, with hardly any green shoots sprouting for the airlines as they continue to face the worst crisis by far in the industry’s history. Last Wednesday, a major airline put 36,000 workers across the country on notice that they could be furloughed on or after October 1. Other carriers have issued and will issue similar notices.

According to the most recent airline traffic data, U.S. air carriers reported a 96 percent drop in passenger traffic for April 2020 over April 2019.¹ And so far in July, total traveler throughput at Transportation Security Administration checkpoints dropped by, on average, more than 70 percent compared to the same period in 2019.² Without further relief from Congress, mass layoffs among airline industry workers are inevitable—and their magnitude will eclipse those of any furloughs the industry has ever seen.

¹ Dep’t of Transp., Bureau of Transp. Stats., “Preliminary Air Traffic Data, April 2020: 96% Reduction in U.S. Airline Passengers from 2019,” at <https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/preliminary-air-traffic-data-april-2020-96-reduction-us-airline-passengers-2019>.

² See TSA, TSA Checkpoint Travel Numbers for 2020 and 2019, <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus/passenger-throughput>.

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 2

The PSP's payroll pass-through saved hundreds of thousands of frontline airline workers' jobs—and not a penny went to the airlines themselves or their shareholders.

According to Secretary Mnuchin's own calculations, taxpayers realized a 70 percent return just from payroll and income tax receipts and reduced unemployment insurance payments. Other sizable government savings, made possible by keeping tens of thousands of airline workers employed, include those to Medicaid and state unemployment programs.

With the resurgence of COVID-19 in several States across the country and a vaccine for the virus yet to be developed, passenger demand for air travel will not recover before the PSP expires on September 30. **And without an extension of the PSP before then, hundreds of thousands of airline workers will be fired or furloughed on October 1.** To save nearly one million airline industry jobs, we must extend the PSP through March 31, 2021.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter that will save jobs and ensure the U.S. airline system remains viable as a national security asset and engine of economic recovery once the pandemic is finally behind us.

Sincerely,

/s/
PETER A. DeFAZIO
Chair, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure

/s/
SHARICE L. DAVIDS
Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Aviation

/s/
KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

/s/
BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

/s/
THOMAS SUOZZI
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID CICILLINE
Member of Congress

/s/
RICK LARSEN
Chair, Subcommittee on Aviation

/s/
RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress

/s/
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

/s/
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

/s/
BILL PASCRELL
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 3

/s/
NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress

/s/
ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress

/s/
ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

/s/
JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

/s/
RON KIND
Member of Congress

/s/
JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

/s/
DON BACON
Member of Congress

/s/
JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress

/s/
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

/s/
TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress

/s/
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

/s/
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

/s/
SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress

/s/
CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress

/s/
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

/s/
DONALD PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
SANFORD BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
MAX ROSE
Member of Congress

/s/
KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.
Member of Congress

/s/
STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

/s/
BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

/s/
ED CASE
Member of Congress

/s/
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 4

/s/
VAL B. DEMINGS
Member of Congress

/s/
SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

/s/
AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

/s/
ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress

/s/
GIBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

/s/
DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

/s/
TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress

/s/
LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

/s/
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress

/s/
DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

/s/
MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress

/s/
SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

/s/
DONNA E. SHALALA
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

/s/
STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress

/s/
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

/s/
MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress

/s/
JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

/s/
YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress

/s/
JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress

/s/
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

/s/
CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress

/s/
RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 5

/s/
JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress

/s/
DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress

/s/
PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

/s/
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

/s/
LUCY MCBATH
Member of Congress

/s/
HALEY M. STEVENS
Member of Congress

/s/
CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress

/s/
DANA TITUS
Member of Congress

/s/
MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

/s/
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

/s/
RUBEN GALLEG0
Member of Congress

/s/
DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

/s/
BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE BOST
Member of Congress

/s/
TOM REED
Member of Congress

/s/
PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress

/s/
SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

/s/
PETE STAUBER
Member of Congress

/s/
DON YOUNG
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 6

/s/
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

/s/
KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress

/s/
PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress

/s/
BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

/s/
JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

/s/
ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress

/s/
LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress

/s/
HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

/s/
ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress

/s/
JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress

/s/
CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

/s/
MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
Member of Congress

/s/
ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

/s/
MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

/s/
LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress

/s/
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

/s/
HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress

/s/
MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

/s/
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

/s/
PETER J. VISCLOSKY
Member of Congress

/s/
KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

/s/
JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress

/s/
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 7

/s/
RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

/s/
LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress

/s/
RAUL RUÍZ
Member of Congress

/s/
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

/s/
ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

/s/
DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress

/s/
MADELEINE DEAN
Member of Congress

/s/
CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress

/s/
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

/s/
ANDY KIM
Member of Congress

/s/
JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

/s/
JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

/s/
TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

/s/
JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

/s/
LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

/s/
ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

/s/
TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress

/s/
ANDY LEVIN
Member of Congress

/s/
JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress

/s/
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

/s/
TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

/s/
STEVEN HORSFORD
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 8

/s/
ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress

/s/
BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

/s/
GREG STANTON
Member of Congress

/s/
KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress

/s/
AL GREEN
Member of Congress

/s/
COLIN ALLRED
Member of Congress

/s/
STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

/s/
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

/s/
KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKIE SHERRILL
Member of Congress

/s/
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

/s/
BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

/s/
VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

/s/
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress

/s/
DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

/s/
SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

/s/
ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress

/s/
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress

/s/
DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

/s/
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress

/s/
SYLVIA R. GARCIA
Member of Congress

/s/
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

/s/
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 9

/s/
DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress

/s/
JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

/s/
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/
TED LIEU
Member of Congress

/s/
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ
Member of Congress

/s/
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

/s/
ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

/s/
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

/s/
ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress

/s/
PAUL COOK
Member of Congress

/s/
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

/s/
BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress

/s/
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

/s/
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Member of Congress

/s/
FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

/s/
LAUREN UNDERWOOD
Member of Congress

/s/
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress

/s/
JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

/s/
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

/s/
GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

/s/
BILLY LONG
Member of Congress

/s/
BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

/s/
WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 10

/s/
LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress

/s/
J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

/s/
BRIAN MAST
Member of Congress

/s/
DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress

/s/
XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Member of Congress

/s/
AMI BERA, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
BEN R. LUJÁN
Member of Congress

/s/
DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress

/s/
ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress

/s/
GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress

/s/
JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

/s/
CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress

/s/
ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

/s/
BRENDA LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

/s/
BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

/s/
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

/s/
A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress

/s/
TROY BALDERSON
Member of Congress

/s/
JASON CROW
Member of Congress

/s/
ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress

/s/
WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

/s/
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

/s/
DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
The Hon. Mitch McConnell
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
The Hon. Charles Schumer
July 27, 2020
Page 11

/s/
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress

/s/
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress

/s/
STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress

/s/
FRED KELLER
Member of Congress

/s/
ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

/s/
PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress

/s/
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

/s/
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress

/s/
JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress

/s/
JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER
Member of Congress

/s/
SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress

/s/
KIM SCHRIER, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/
DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

/s/
DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

/s/
JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

/s/
ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress

/s/
TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

/s/
CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress