



PRESIDENT'S DEPARTMENT  
AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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August 11, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches, the more than 60,000 pilots of the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA) are honoring the memory of all who lost their lives or were harmed. We are committed to ensuring their legacy is that of a safer and more secure U.S. air transportation system.

The loss of four U.S. airliners and nearly 3,000 lives on September 11, 2001, was a terrible demonstration of the vulnerability of the flight deck and the need to do more to prevent individuals with hostile intent from breaching it when the door is opened during flight. Congress recognized the security gap when it passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018, which included language providing an additional layer of security by directing the FAA to issue a regulation within one year that would require all newly manufactured passenger aircraft to be equipped with secondary flight deck barriers before they enter service.

ALPA wrote to the current administration in May 2021, yet the FAA has still failed to issue a regulation regarding secondary flight deck barriers as required by Congress. At a time of increased passenger disruptions and assaults on frontline aviation workers, the FAA continues to permit a known security threat to jeopardize passengers and flight crews on U.S. airliners. We learned on 9/11 the vulnerability of the flight deck and are being reminded almost daily that the threat persists despite the FAA's clear direction from Congress to address it. The FAA's inaction is particularly egregious considering this law passed nearly three years ago.

As the United States prepares to mark two decades since the 9/11 attacks, it is ALPA's sincere hope that the Department of Transportation will urge the FAA to carry out the will of Congress and provide greater security for the flying public by issuing a final secondary flight deck barrier regulation before September 11, 2021.

Sincerely,

Capt. Joseph G. DePete  
President