



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION | WWW.ALPA.ORG

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Dear Representative,

On behalf of over 74,000 airline pilots represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), I write to ask you for your support of the bipartisan Cargo Flight Deck Security Act of 2023 (H.R. 3909), sponsored by Reps. Chuy Garcia (D-IL) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). This bill would ensure One Level of Safety and Security for all pilots and airline operations, regardless of payload or flight mission. ALPA is the world's largest nongovernmental safety organization, and we strongly endorse H.R. 3909. This legislation would close the loophole that currently allows all-cargo airlines to operate without an intrusion-resistant flight deck door, a recommendation for all airliners by the 9/11 Commission to limit access to the flight deck by unauthorized personnel.

A little-known fact in air transport is that all-cargo flights often carry individuals who travel with cargo who are not flight crew. For example, cargo aircraft routinely transport large animals like racehorses which require animal handlers who ferry the animals across the world and who routinely carry potentially lethal animal tranquilizers. These so-called supernumeraries on all-cargo aircraft are not required to be vetted to the same standards as passengers on a commercial passenger aircraft. Without a barrier between the flight crew and an unknown potential security threat, an unreasonable and unnecessary risk is present in our aviation system.

Following 9/11, the regulations enacted by Congress to prevent more attacks on the flight deck included a mandated hardened flight deck door on commercial airliners; however, all-cargo planes were carved out of this requirement. H.R. 3909 takes an important step forward in bringing the all-cargo airline industry up to par with security measures required of passenger airlines.

Unsecured flight decks on all-cargo aircraft are not acceptable and leave pilots who fly them vulnerable to attack. The security loophole presented in all-cargo planes is a significant threat to flight operations, putting the flight crew, the national airspace system, and American public at risk.

We ask for your support of the Cargo Flight Deck Security Act and urge you to include this important security improvement in the pending FAA reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

Captain Jason Ambrosi
President, Air Line Pilots Association, International