



*Association of Professional
Flight Attendants*

Representing the Flight Attendants of American Airlines

Remarks by ORD APFA Government Affairs Representative Jena Olsen

- Thank you Dennis. Good morning. My name is Jena Olsen. I'm a Chicago based American Airlines flight attendant and I've been flying for 29 years.
- While the U.S government waits, the Gulf carriers are rapidly expanding their presence in the United States, taking market share away from U.S. carriers that employ American workers.
- In fact, just this year, the Gulf carriers have announced plans to expand service into over a dozen American cities, which will result in American job loss and cuts to service for regional travelers.
- While these airlines offer all the luxury money can buy, it often comes at a cost to the workers.
- These three airlines have **unfair** labor practices and **discriminatory** policies that travelers should be made aware of.
- For example, Qatar Airways female staff members are **not** allowed to marry for five years, and after that time they are required to ask for permission.
- And any woman who becomes pregnant is likely to be immediately dismissed. Recently, the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations which monitors labor standards worldwide, called on Qatar Airways to remove a clause from its flight attendant contract that allows the company to terminate members of the flight crew upon becoming pregnant.
- Flight attendants are kept under constant strict surveillance, even in their private time, and are subject to inspections, curfews and arbitrary dismissal. All personnel are subjected to lifelong gag orders.
- Unfortunately, if an employee violates any of these rules, their lives are negatively impacted and they are often fired. And since these governments have **banned** Unions and collective bargaining, these workers have **no** say in their working conditions or safety standards and they have **no legal rights**.
- We have spent generations working for equal rights and we should **not** allow these airlines to bring these **discriminatory** practices to the United States.
- Now is **not** the time to turn back the clock and lose all that we have worked for.

I'd now like to introduce Kyle Moore, a pilot from Southwest Pilots Association.