



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Representing the Flight Attendants of American Airlines

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Flight Attendant Union President Calls on Congress to Raise the Debt Ceiling *“Stop playing politics and get back to governing!”*

Laura Glading, President of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, called on Congress to end the standoff that has the American economy hanging in the balance. APFA represents the professional Flight Attendants employed by American Airlines. The union’s 17,000 members have been watching the debt ceiling debate very carefully knowing that their airline and the entire aviation industry would be gravely impacted by the United States defaulting on its debts.

“The brinksmanship being played by some of the obstructionists in Congress is dangerous and irresponsible,” said Glading. “Much of the traveling public isn’t even aware that the FAA is in a partial shutdown due to Congressional inaction. Furthermore, as my membership can tell you first hand, the economy is tough enough on the middle class already; we certainly don’t need to go into default. Our airline has been in a precarious financial state for years and I shudder to think what might happen to it if Congress can’t come to an agreement on this issue. The debt limit debate needs to be resolved quickly so our lawmakers can get back to governing.”

In the midst of the debt ceiling debate last week, Congress failed to pass a clean extension of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization act, effectively shutting down much of the agency that governs air travel in the United States. The extension bill passed by the House, along straight party lines, included for the first time provisions that weakened organized labor and cut funding to the Essential Air Service program, which Senate Democrats would not agree to. Instead, the Senate has committed to passing a clean extension, but their efforts have been stalled by the ongoing debt ceiling debate.

About APFA

Founded in 1977, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) is the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the nation. It represents more than 17,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines. APFA Members live in almost every state of the nation and serve millions of Americans as they travel the nation and the world. In 2003, APFA played a major role in keeping American Airlines solvent and out of bankruptcy by giving back an employee bailout of \$340 million in annual salary and benefits, for a total of over \$2 billion and counting. Today, American Airlines is one of the nation’s leading air carriers and after three years and over 125 meetings APFA is still in frustrating and stalled contract negotiations with company management. Laura Glading is serving in her first four-year term as president of the union.

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