



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Office of the National President

February 7, 2020

Chad F. Wolf, Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, Virginia 20598-6001

Dear Mr. Wolf:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), the union representing American Airlines' 28,000 flight attendants. Our members are concerned about the recent decision made by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prevent the enrollment and re-enrollment by New Yorkers in several Trusted Traveler Programs, including Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, and FAST. Disputes over New York's immigration policies are between the State and the DHS, but APFA is concerned about the decision's potential impact on the Known Crew Member (KCM) program.

The KCM program allows flight attendants and airline pilots, who already undergo extensive criminal background checks conditional to their employment, to proceed through TSA security checks in a dedicated lane. This process shortens the security line for passengers and ensures that crew members can swiftly progress to their assigned aircraft, preventing delayed flights while crew would otherwise be waiting in line. My members work hard and are fatigued after long hours, which is a genuine problem. Unnecessary lines and increased wait times would simply exacerbate the fatigue problem.

While your letter to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles did not explicitly mention the KCM program, I would appreciate you providing some clarity to the 28,000 APFA members, as well as the thousands of pilots and flight attendants on other airlines. American Airlines is due to expand its operations this year, and I want to ensure the security process for new flight attendants, as well as those who must renew their KCM status, will not be extraneously disrupted due to the measures taken on other Trusted Traveler Programs.

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Flight attendants, pilots, TSA personnel, passengers, and many more stakeholders are essential partners in ensuring flights take off and land safely. The KCM program plays an important role in ensuring crew members are able to safely and efficiently board their flights and help keep passengers safe. APFA appreciates DHS' role in keeping airports safe, and we look forward to opening a dialogue on how we can ensure KCM remains open for all New York APFA members, as well as all the pilots and flight attendants who fly through New York every day.

Sincerely,



Lori L. Bassani
National President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants