



Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO  
Association of Professional Flight Attendants

January 29, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Urgent Need to Extend Aviation Jobs Program**

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Representative McCarthy, Senator McConnell:

On behalf of 75,000 Flight Attendants, thank you for your leadership and continued support of all aviation workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Payroll Support Program (PSP) is the most transparent, effective relief program and it needs to be extended in order to finish the job of lifting us out of this pandemic. Serving on the frontlines during the COVID pandemic has been a serious challenge, included devastating loss, and increased conflict in our workspace. With the exception of lapse in funding for the program October 1 - December 28, we have experienced a true #WorkersFirst relief program that we know saved our jobs and our lives. We encourage Congress and the administration to act quickly to extend the PSP program with \$15 billion to protect jobs through September 30, 2021, or when the funds are exhausted, whichever date is later.

The alternative is mass layoffs starting in April. The furloughs in October led to certification lapses and loss of security credentials. A near three month furlough created a backlog of training that means most workers, while getting a paycheck through the PSP program, won't even be able to qualify to work at the airline until this emergency relief period ends March 31, 2021. We can't let that happen again.

All of the successful provisions of PSP need to continue, including full furlough protections, no cuts to hourly rates of pay, continued air service to all communities, and extensions on the executive compensation cap and the ban on stock buybacks and dividends. Without immediate action on this, essential workers will again be pushed into incredible uncertainty with job loss and cost-cutting on the job that airlines will initiate in the coming days.

PSP is a landmark workers first union-led program that provides grants exclusively to keep aviation workers on the job, connected to critical benefits like health insurance, social security contributions, and retirement at a time when air travel has been decimated. With widespread vaccination finally in sight, continuing PSP will ensure that critical transportation and public

health infrastructure remains in place and that our workforce stays off unemployment. Extending payroll support will support the families and communities of aviation workers and the 1 in 14 jobs in our country that our jobs support. It will protect the integrity of the most unionized workforce in the American private sector.

By acting now, Congress can avoid the economic hardship caused by furloughs, unpaid leave, and severe cost-cutting we experienced during the temporary interruption of PSP at the end of 2020. Thousands of our colleagues lost paychecks and healthcare, many while facing medical emergencies, loss of their homes, and other personal financial hardships brought on by the broader health and economic crisis. Extending PSP can bring needed stability and certainty during the worst period in the history of air travel. The people on the frontlines who we represent are counting on this certainty from our government.

We respectfully request Congress act quickly to continue extend PSP so we can recover from this horrific virus and be in place to help lift our economy once again.

Respectfully,



Sara Nelson  
AFA International President



Julie Hedrick  
APFA National President