

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Secretary Duffy:

Last week, the Trump administration rescinded a proposed rule to require airlines to compensate and cover expenses for passengers experiencing lengthy delays or cancellations caused by air carriers. This decision undermines consumer protections and will only raise the cost of travel. We urge the Department of Transportation to immediately reverse this decision and advance the proposed rule.

This rule would have guaranteed passengers \$200 to \$775 in compensation for disrupted travel. It also required airlines to provide free meals, lodging and rebooking in cases where domestic flight changes were under the carrier's control, such as a mechanical issue.¹ This mirrors other countries around the globe. For instance, Canada, Brazil, Britain and the European Union all have airline delay compensation rules.² The now-rescinded proposed rule aimed to put the United States on par with its traveling partners.

Currently, several major U.S. carriers have committed to rebook passengers at no additional cost, cover meals during airline caused disruptions, and provide overnight lodging. However, these commitments are at the discretion of these airlines and may vary by airline, whereas a rule keeps standards in place for all airline passengers. These protections, as a rule, are also less likely to change with little notice.

In a recent announcement, President Trump's Department of Transportation said its plan to scrap the proposed rule is "consistent with Department and administration priorities."³ It is unclear what these priorities are, and how rolling back the proposed rule's consumer protections aligns with those goals. In the last few years, the former administration and Congress both worked to bolster protections for the flying public, ranging from requiring airlines to have policies addressing reimbursement for passenger's incurred costs from flight disruptions, requiring airlines to provide cash refunds for canceled or delayed flights, requiring better treatment of passenger mobility devices like wheelchairs, and requiring airlines to allow parents to sit next to their children at no additional cost, among other things.

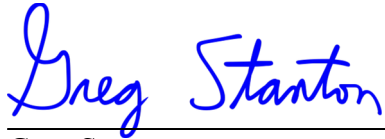
Instead of rolling back this protection for passengers, the Trump administration should be focusing on commonsense, bipartisan ways to reduce costs for customers and keep our skies safe. We urge the Department of Transportation to maintain these critical protections.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/dot-propose-requirements-airlines-cover-expenses-and-compensate-stranded-passengers>

² <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-drops-biden-plan-require-airlines-pay-compensation-disrupted-flights-2025-09-04>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2025/09/05/airlines-flight-disruption-consumer-protection/>



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Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
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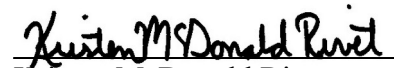
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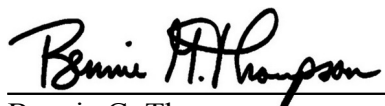
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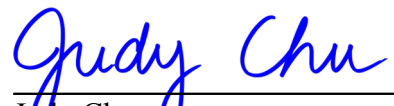
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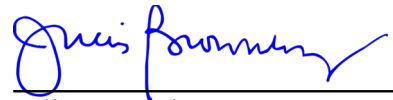
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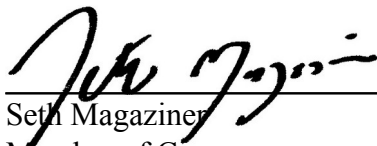
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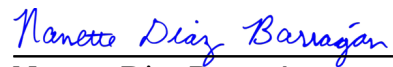
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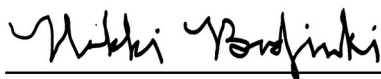
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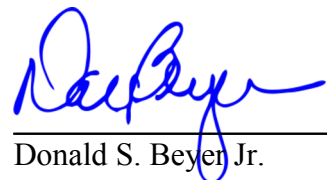
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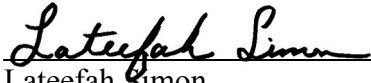
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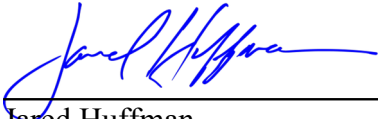
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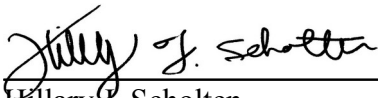
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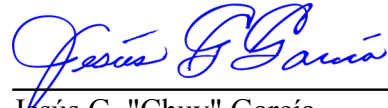
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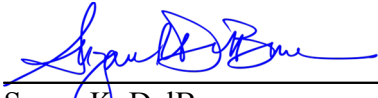
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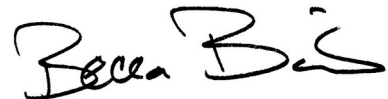
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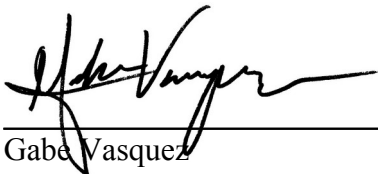
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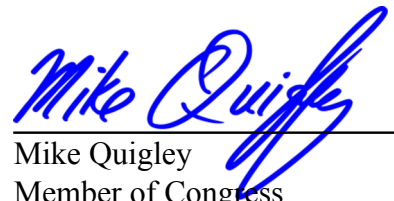
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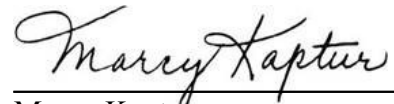
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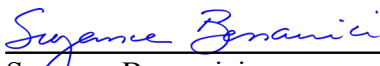
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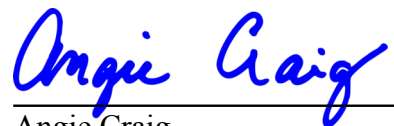
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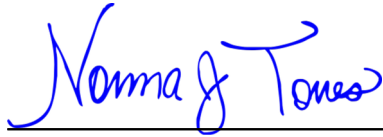
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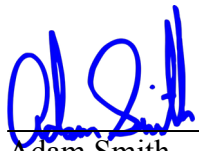
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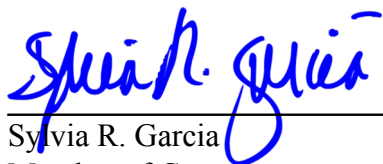
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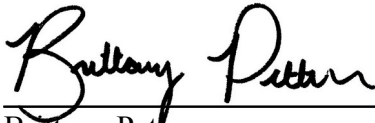
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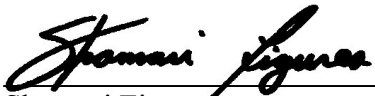
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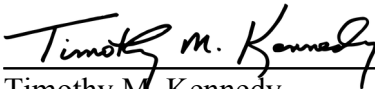
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