

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

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IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

April 29, 2020

Mr. Ed Bastian
Chief Executive Officer
Delta Airlines
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30320

Mr. Doug Parker
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines
4255 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76155

Mr. Oscar Munoz
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Airlines
77 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Gary C. Kelly
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Southwest Airlines
2702 Love Field Drive
Dallas, TX 75235

Dear Mr. Bastian, Mr. Parker, Mr. Munoz, and Mr. Kelly,

I am writing to request that Delta Airlines, American Airlines, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines require its passengers and crewmembers to wear a face covering on all flights for the foreseeable future as we continue to combat this global health pandemic.

As you may be aware, on April 27, 2020, I wrote to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield and Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Stephen Dickson urging them to require the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in air travel.

I was pleased to learn that JetBlue Airways made the tough, but critically necessary, decision to require that all passengers wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth during the duration of each flight and also during check-in, boarding and deplaning. This action will undoubtedly help to protect the health and safety of crewmembers and passengers and instill confidence in the flying public.

While I am aware that your airlines have taken various steps to require flight attendants to wear face masks or to ensure that there are enhanced cleaning procedures on airplanes, I believe that the nation's four largest airlines have a responsibility to take every action necessary to ensure the health and safety of the flying public. This should absolutely include the requirement of all passengers to wear masks since we know that masks are one of the most effective tools to mitigate people's risk of exposure when those around them are also wearing masks.

I recognize that these are difficult and unprecedented times, but we must all work together to do everything possible to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 onboard aircraft and through air travel.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue. Should you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact Alex Schnelle in my office at alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3265.

As always, I remain,

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress