



RE: Establishing standards for service animal on planes

Recent high profile events have emphasized the need to address aviation travel with service animals, emotional support animals, and pets. The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA), representing 50,000 Flight Attendants at 20 carriers, supports legislation, sponsored by Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina, that would establish a standard for service animal behavior training and make it illegal for passengers to knowingly make false statements in order to disguise their pet as a service animal aboard an aircraft.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as an animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

AFA recognizes that service animals play a vital role in the lives of people with disabilities. Passengers who attempt to evade air transport pet policies by falsely claiming their pet is an emotional support or service animal cause safety, health, and security issues in the cabin including biting, aggression, urination, defecation, allergic reactions, conflict between passengers, and other disruptions.

AFA supports the legislation introduced by Senator Burr that standardizes identification and training requirements for service animals, emotional support animals, and pets onboard. Federal regulations will establish procedures that help passengers with disabilities and protect crew and passengers. To cosponsor this bill, please contact John McDonald, john_mcdonald@burr.senate.gov.

If you have additional questions please contact Stephen Schembs, sschembs@afanet.org or (202) 434-0568.

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The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA is the Flight Attendant union. Focused 100 percent on Flight Attendant issues, AFA has been the leader in advancing the Flight Attendant profession for 72 years. Serving as the voice for Flight Attendants in the workplace, in the aviation industry, in the media and on Capitol Hill, AFA has transformed the Flight Attendant profession by raising wages, benefits and working conditions. Nearly 50,000 Flight Attendants at 20 carriers come together to form AFA, part of the 700,000-member strong Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO. Visit us at www.afacwa.org.