

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 24, 2018

Mr. Robin Hayes
JetBlue
2701 Queens Plz N
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Mr. Hayes,

We are writing today to request action be made on the problem of sexual harassment in the airline industry. There is no room for sexual harassment or assault in the workplace. Yet, this behavior has been tolerated for far too long. Studies show that sexual harassment most frequently occurs in the service sector, where female employees often have little recourse.

As members and supporters of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, we recently held a hearing on combatting service sector sexual harassment. We were informed by testimony by Sara Nelson, President of the Association of Flight Attendants, on her experiences of sexual harassment in the airline industry. Approximately 80 percent of flight attendants are female and they are often objectified on a daily basis by passengers, coworkers, and superiors. It is perhaps not surprising that sexual harassment is prevalent given the industry's past objectification of flight attendants. Not long ago, airlines used flight attendants, and their sexuality, as part of a marketing strategy to sell more airline tickets. As recently as 1993, flight attendants were required to weigh-in regularly to maintain their employment.

We know a flight attendant's primary duty is to ensure the safety of passengers during a flight. As passengers, we expect them to assist in emergencies before, during, and after flights and we train them to combat human trafficking. Flight attendants are first responders to medical emergencies, in-flight fires, or evacuations as well as the last line of defense against hijacking. They deserve our respect and gratitude, and to be treated fairly.

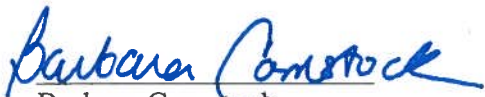
In a survey conducted by the Association of Flight Attendants, 68 percent of flight attendants reported experiencing sexual harassment during their flying careers, and an equal percentage said they have not noticed any employer efforts over the past year to address sexual harassment at work.

At this time, we applaud CEOs Brad Tilden of Alaska Airlines and Oscar Munoz of United Airlines for publicly denouncing sexual harassment, reinforcing the role of flight attendants as safety professionals, and working with AFA to put in place clear policies regarding sexual harassment and assault. We have been advised that Spirit Airlines took steps immediately

following our hearing to work with AFA on a similar response which will promote safety in the workplace and on our planes. We strongly encourage you to do the same to inform your employees and the public about your policies and make clear you are taking steps to eradicate sexual harassment from your airline.

We look forward to hearing more about how your company is addressing sexual harassment and assault. It is important we work together to ensure a safe workplace environment for all employees.

Sincerely,



Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress