



ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS – CWA, AFL - CIO
HAWAIIAN AIRLINES MASTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WEBSITE: HAWAIIANAF.A.ORG *FACEBOOK: HAWAIIANAF.A *APP: BY INVITATION

June 23, 2021

Dear Flight Attendants,

AFA-CWA Urges Swift Action Against Unruly Passengers

Throughout this pandemic we have all encountered passengers who have failed to comply with the Federal Mask Mandate. It is a national issue that AFA is addressing, and we want you to know that we are advocating for the support of our Flight Attendants during these trying times.

The FAA has received about 3,000 reports of unruly traveler behavior on airplanes since the beginning of the year, a record. The FAA has so far recommended civil penalties topping \$360,000, according to airline industry figures, though recent agency releases describe incidents that allegedly occurred back in February, meaning there are likely more cases, and fines, yet to be disclosed.

Most of the cases are related to passengers' refusal to wear masks on board, which the Biden administration mandated earlier this year, though airlines have required it since early in the pandemic. The administration extended it through mid-September.

AFA-CWA, together with other unions and Airlines for America have sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, asking that "more be done to deter egregious [passenger] behavior, which is in violation of federal law and crewmember instruction. Specifically, the federal government should send a strong and consistent message through criminal enforcement that compliance with federal law and upholding aviation safety are of paramount importance." Please read the attached letter below.

[Aviation Coalition Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland](#)

Lawmakers have raised alarms and at least one senator is working on a bill to address the issue. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., plans to introduce legislation before the end of this month "that would cover abusive passenger behavior on board flights" and against TSA officers. At a hearing last week, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, asked Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about what the agency is doing to combat the assaults and other unruly behavior on planes and at airports.

We are working hard to continue to keep the story in the news. AFA International is also working on a survey for members; the concern being incidents are either not being reported or the information isn't getting to the right people/departments. The TSA is re-upping the crew member self-defense training which has been voluntary in the past. AFA is advocating for the training to be included in our annual mandatory recertification provided by airlines.

As always please send any questions to the Questions Form link: [TinyUrl.com/AFAQuestionForm](https://tinyurl.com/AFAQuestionForm)

In Unity,

Joni, Scott, Chasity, Jaci-Ann, Josh
and the entire AFA Leadership

[AFA-CWA Mutual Respect Policy](#)

INFLIGHT SAFETY PROFESSIONALS