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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

WARREN GUNNELS, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
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July 1, 2024

### VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

It has come to my attention the National Mediation Board (NMB) released Gate Gourmet, UNITE HERE, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters from negotiations, queuing up a potential labor strike during one of the busiest travel seasons for the airline industry.<sup>1</sup> Disruptions in air travel will cause unnecessary uncertainty for families and airline workers alike. To prevent severe economic consequences and a global disruption in air travel, it is imperative you use all of your available authority, including forming a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB), to resolve this matter and avert a strike. We need leadership.

U.S. airlines are expected to set air-travel records this summer, with up to 271 million passengers transported by air.<sup>2</sup> To meet the predicted demand, airlines are already offering 1,400 new flights per day. A strike would have devastating consequences, not only on summer travel but the shipment of essential goods and health supplies that Americans need. If you choose not to take action, your administration risks serious economic consequences and travel disruptions for the American public.

Fortunately, it is fully within your power to avoid this disruption by creating an impartial and qualified PEB under the Railway Labor Act. A strike would result in airlines reducing services or ceasing operations while waiting for a resolution. It is imperative you act to prevent unnecessary price hikes and delays on Americans depending on reliable airline travel this summer.

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<sup>1</sup> *AAA Predicts Record-Setting Summer Travel Season for U.S. Airlines*, Airlines for America (May 14, 2024), <https://www.airlines.org/a4a-predicts-record-setting-summer-travel-season-for-u-s-airlines/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions