

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Faso
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Maloney and Representative Faso:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we write to thank you for introducing H.R. 2485, the *Airplane Kids in Transit Safety (KITS) Act of 2017*. This important legislation would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to update the emergency medical kits (EMKs) on airplanes to ensure that they contain appropriate medication and equipment to meet the emergency medical needs of children. Not since 1998 has Congress required FAA to update the contents of the EMKs.

Children make up 25 percent of the nation's population and are more vulnerable than adults in the case of an emergency or disaster. Pediatric patients have important physical, physiological, and developmental differences from adults that must be anticipated when preparing for a potential emergency. Children are not small adults and emergency planning must take into account the different medications and medical devices that children need.

The current contents of the EMKs onboard commercial airplanes are outdated and do not contain appropriate medications and devices for treating children. Specifically, the medications currently in EMKs do not contain pediatric dosages and there are not formulations of medications that are appropriate for children. Similarly, EMKs are not currently required to have devices such as pediatric bag-mask valve ventilation, pediatric CPR masks, or infant sized oropharyngeal airways that are used to maintain or open an infant's airway.

By requiring the FAA to undertake rulemaking within one year of enactment to update the contents of the EMKs, H.R. 2485, the *Airplane KITS Act of 2017* will help to ensure that when a pediatric medical emergency occurs on an airplane, appropriate medication and equipment will be available on board. Our organizations are grateful to you for your bipartisan commitment to the safety and well-being of children and we look forward to working with you to advance the legislation.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Pediatric Society
Association of Medical School Pediatric
Department Chairs
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Health Fund
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Voices
First Focus Campaign for Children

March of Dimes
National Association of Emergency Medical
Technicians
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of State Emergency
Medical Services Officials
Pediatric Policy Council
Save the Children
Society for Pediatric Research