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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

June 22, 2010

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DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

Via e-mail

Dear Airline,

It has come to my attention that U.S. airlines are being exploited as trafficking routes into the United States. Women and children are being transported to lives of slavery in broad daylight, shrouded only by the lack of awareness or inaction of those around them. I believe that, with education on the signs of trafficking and on appropriate interventions, flight crews can use their positions effectively to save lives.

For instance, Nancy Rivard, a flight attendant for 30 years, first noticed human trafficking on a flight from Cambodia and wanted her organization, Airline Ambassadors, to help protect children from being trafficked. Shortly thereafter, she gathered with eight friends and colleagues in the Dominican Republic to collaborate on trafficking prevention. On the return trip, the team split into three groups and each group correctly identified a human trafficking crime taking place on Delta, JetBlue, and USAIR. In each case, the flight attendants agreed with the assessment of the team, but did not know what to do. The team provided the flight attendants with the National Trafficking Hotline number and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was alerted. By simply noticing the signs of human trafficking and knowing who to call, these teams helped flight attendants save lives.

Currently, the annual Emergency Procedure Training for flight crews does not include a section on how to detect or appropriately respond in a suspected human trafficking event. Most airlines also do not include trafficking information in their on-flight magazines, brochures, or bulletins. By simply including basic information in annual training and in flight materials, airlines could prevent untold numbers of trafficking cases each year.

**To this end, Rep. James Oberstar, the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and I are hosting a closed briefing on Capitol Hill, July 1, between 2:30 and 5:00 pm in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Meeting Room South to bring together U.S. airline executives and representatives, the Federal Aviation Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office (G/TIP), and other gatekeepers. ICE and G/TIP will give presentations on the scope of the problem and law enforcement response. Airline Ambassadors and Innocents at Risk will be unveiling a prototype for the training manuals, flight bulletins, and brochures.**

I hope that you will be able to join in the briefing. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Allison Hollabaugh in my office at (202) 225-3765 or at [Allison.Hollabaugh@mail.house.gov](mailto:Allison.Hollabaugh@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your consideration of this invitation. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Member of Congress