

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz and Senator Moran:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we write to thank you for introducing S. 1167, 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The current contents of the EMKs onboard commercial airplanes are outdated and do not contain appropriate medications and devices for treating children.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, S. 1167, 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