

Dear Representative _____,

As a constituent, a flight attendant, and a member of the Association of Flight Attendants- CWA, I am writing to strongly urge you to support Congressman Dan Lipinski's Bill H.R. 2870. H.R.2870 was crafted to standardize and clarify the dimensions of carry-on baggage and personal items on air carriers.

As a flight attendant I can tell you that the current guidelines for carry-on bags makes it extremely difficult for me and my co-workers to perform our primary duty, ensuring passengers safety. Incidents that I have seen as a direct result of carry-on bags range from disruption in the cabin, delays in boarding and deplaning, physical and verbal abuse towards myself, fellow flight attendants, and passengers, and injuries and impediments during immediate evacuations. These current guidelines for carry-on bags were established more than two decades ago when air travel was much different, today these guidelines are inadequate for my fellow flight attendants and I to ensure passenger safety and be able to provide an appealing flight.

In addition carry on-bag limitations would also increase airport security. The September 11, terrorist's attacks underscore the need for a comprehensive effort to improve security and further support for a tighter limit on carry-on baggage. Reducing the size and number of carry-on bags would ultimately enhance security screening by reducing the number of bags that need to be screened and reducing the volume of the individual bag, both of which would provide for a better, clearer, and uncomplicated x-ray image to improve the efficiency of screening.

The concept of limiting size, type and amount of carry-on baggage is nothing new and was recommended in 1996 by an FAA Aviation Security Advisory Committee. International countries and bodies, such as the European Union (EU) also have recognized the need for carry-on bag limitations and implemented regulations in April 2007.

In the Bill H.R.2870 the size limitations would be consistent with the (EU) standards and limits that each passenger may bring only one carry-on bag and one personal item the dimensions of each, when loaded, shall not exceed 56cm in length by 45cm in height by 25cm in width (rounded to 22 inches by 18 inches by 10 inches).

Following the September 11, FAA and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recognized the necessity to limit carry on baggage and both issued guidance to carriers that limited passengers to one carry-on bag and one personal item. These current restrictions are loosely enforced and neither agency is explicit in their information to the public regarding the limit. In fact, the FAA website no longer even mentions the limit of one carry-on bag and one personal item.

As a flight attendant and constituent I urge you to support H.R. 2870 to implement clear and concise limits on the number and size of carry-on bags to ensure continued enhancement of security and safety for the traveling public.

Print First & Last Name

Address

Signature

City and State

Zip Code

