

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Garret Graves  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Graves, Subcommittee Chair Graves, and Ranking Members Larsen and Cohen:

Thank you for your leadership on the upcoming Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization. We believe this legislation offers a key opportunity to further bolster the safety and security of American passengers. As you continue this important work, we urge you to include necessary, commonsense language to require epinephrine auto-injectors (EAI) in aircraft emergency medical kits (EMKs), which will prevent entirely avoidable in-flight health emergencies.

As you know, Section 307 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 required the Administrator to evaluate and, as necessary, revise regulations regarding aircraft emergency medical equipment and first-aid kits. This requirement was addressed via the 2019 Guidance Document<sup>1</sup> produced by the Aerospace Medical Association Air Transport Medicine Committee as requested by the FAA's Federal Air Surgeon. The Committee, in consultation with various medical stakeholders, recommended the inclusion of EAI in aircraft EMKs, stating:

*“When available and cost effective, auto-injectors are easier to use and can be used by cabin crew under order from ground medical advisor if there are no health professional on board. The AAP [American Academy of Pediatrics] endorsed this suggestion as well as suggested its availability in pediatric dosage”*

In the four years since this guidance was issued, the FAA has unfortunately failed to act to revise its regulations to require EAI in aircraft EMKs. While the FAA issued a purely *voluntary* recommendation<sup>2</sup> in 2020 that aircrafts may include additional items in EMKs, without an explicit change to FAA regulations, lives remain at risk. Therefore, we believe legislation is necessary to correct this long overdue medical oversight and implement this clear and lifesaving guidance.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America<sup>3</sup>, anaphylaxis, a serious and life-threatening allergic reaction, is relatively common and occurs in an estimated one in 20 to 50 Americans. Studies have also demonstrated that many patients who experience anaphylaxis are not adequately equipped or ready to deal with future incidents. While aircrafts are currently required to carry two vials of 1:1000 single doses of non auto-injectable epinephrine in EMKs, airline crews do not receive training in administering the medication and must rely on trained medical professionals that may or may not be on board the flight and able to assist.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.asma.org/asma/media/AsMA/Travel-Publications/FAA-med-kit-Guidance-Document-June-2019.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/other\\_visit/aviation\\_industry/airline\\_operators/airline\\_safety/InFO20001.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/InFO20001.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://aafa.org/asthma-allergy-research/our-research/anaphylaxis-in-america/>

While there is an immediate need to include EAI in EMKs, we also encourage the Committee to include a provision to require the FAA to review the contents of EMKs on a regular basis. Regular review will ensure that EMKs are stocked with the most up-to-date anaphylaxis rescue medications as new technologies are approved by the Food and Drug Administration and come to market.

The lack of EAI in aircraft EMKs has led to life-threatening and traumatic health emergencies. However, these emergencies can, and should, be prevented. EAI is user-friendly, safe, and reliable means to treat anaphylaxis. It is long overdue that FAA regulations be updated to reflect the Committee recommendation, including availability in pediatric dosages. Once again, to protect the safety and wellbeing of American passengers, we urge you to include commonsense language in the upcoming FAA reauthorization legislation to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
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André Carson  
Member of Congress

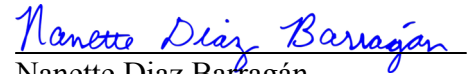


Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



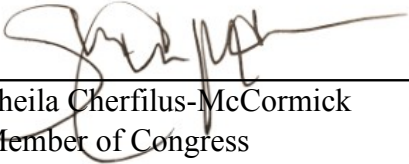
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress




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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



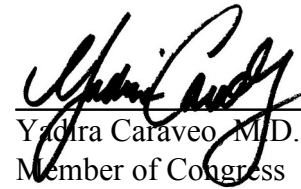
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



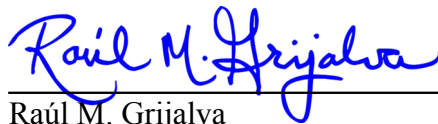
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Doris Matsui  
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Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
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Katie Porter  
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