

JANUARY 2026

# Southwest Airlines Pilots Association National Airline Policy

---

## Advance & Protect the Pilot Profession

### Benefits

- Oppose legislation that would harm a pilot's ability to save for retirement
- Oppose legislation that would negatively impact a pilot's healthcare options

### Energy & Environment

- Oppose "Green New Deal" restrictions on aviation
- Oppose carbon emission taxes and carbon trading schemes
- Educate policymakers on airline improvements in fuel savings/efficiency
- Secure and expand incentives for sustainable aviation fuels (SAF)

### International Aviation Trade Policy & Issues

- Ensure full enforcement of existing and new Open Skies agreements
- Oppose cabotage in the U.S. domestic market
- Oppose flags of convenience schemes
- Oppose efforts to raise caps on foreign ownership and control of U.S. airlines
- Support fair competition and a level playing field for U.S. carriers

### Tax Policy

- Ensure aviation labor receives tax benefit parity with other labor groups
- Preserve and enhance retirement benefits
- Oppose excessive increases to passenger facility charges (PFCs)
- Stop diversion of security fees to non-security-related projects
- Advocate for federal airport grants to be used only for capacity and efficiency improvements

### Labor

- Support efforts to improve contract negotiations under the Railway Labor Act
- Protect collective bargaining rights utilizing all tools provided by the RLA

### Airports & Market Access

- Ensure Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities are fully resourced
- Coordinate with DOT/FAA/Congress on ATC Systems Modernization
- Coordinate with congress and the FAA to ensure clear communication and coordination of Space Launches and seek to minimize Airspace Restrictions
- Support allocating ATC resources to facilities with greatest capacity requirements
- Support air carrier access and utilization of the National Airspace System (NAS)

# Safety & Aeromedical

## Safety

- Oppose any changes to current Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) requirements for commercial pilots which compromise safety
- Oppose any changes to the current flight deck crew compliment requirements
- Oppose any change to current mandatory retirement age of 65
- Oppose any efforts to weaken Single Level of Safety in commercial aviation
- Protect the Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) and voluntary disclosure programs
- Exempt ATC, FAA Safety Critical workers, and TSA from government shutdowns
- Support efforts to improve ATC hiring, staffing and training
- Ensure the safe and responsible integration of Commercial Space, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) systems into the NAS
- Support measures to ensure UAS regulations address safety concerns posed by recreational drone operators
- Oppose changes to Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) protocols
- Oppose introduction of video recorders on flight deck
- Engage on any new legislation related to cabin air quality and hazards

## Security

- Protect & expand expedited flight crew screening programs (KCM)
- Protect funding for Federal Flight Deck Officer Program (FFDO)
- Eliminate security loopholes utilized by Part 135 carriers selling scheduled service

## Aeromedical

- Establish higher priority and fast-tracking of FAA “Special Issuance” waivers for pilots who make their living by flying
- Advocate for increased staffing and accountability measures for the FAA’s Aeromedical Division
- Educate policymakers on need to improve approach to pilot mental health issues
- Enhance pilot protections for aeromedical safety threats (radiation, lasers)

---

## Captain Chip Hancock

Chair, Government Affairs Committee  
443-404-1406  
[chancock@swapa.org](mailto:chancock@swapa.org)

