



PRESS RELEASE

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SWAPA Urges Action Against Part 135 Carriers Exploiting Loopholes

(DALLAS) — The Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA) strongly supports the introduction of the Safe Flights for Passengers and Flight Crews Act by Congressman Tim Kennedy (NY-26). This vital legislation addresses a pressing issue in the aviation industry: charter carriers exploiting regulatory loopholes to provide regular and scheduled services that mimic traditional airline operations, without meeting the necessary safety standards.

Currently, charter airlines operate under less stringent FAA regulations (Part 135), which were originally designed for limited, on-demand flights. By leveraging these rules, charter carriers are conducting flights that look and feel like regular commercial service while bypassing essential safety protocols. This not only undermines the integrity of the aviation system but also raises serious safety concerns for passengers and pilots alike.

Captain Jody Reven, President of SWAPA, stated, "Charter carriers are exploiting loopholes to offer scheduled services with significantly lower safety standards, which is unacceptable. All scheduled commercial flights must meet the same rigorous safety requirements. The Safe Flights for Passengers and Flight Crews Act is essential for closing this regulatory gap and ensuring passenger safety."

The passage of this legislation will ensure that all passenger-carrying scheduled charter flights comply with the same federal safety and operational standards as larger airlines, creating a safer and fairer aviation environment for everyone.

About SWAPA

Located in Dallas, Texas, the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee organization representing the more than 11,000 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA works to provide a secure and rewarding career for Southwest pilots and their families through negotiating contracts, defending contractual rights, and actively promoting professionalism and safety. For more information on the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, visit www.swapa.org.