



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
President of the Senate  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Vice President:

The purpose of this letter is to submit proposed legislation that would amend chapter 417 of title 49, U.S. Code, to ensure that U.S. and foreign airlines guarantee that young children are seated adjacent to at least one accompanying adult at no additional cost, subject to certain conditions.

In July 2022, the Department issued a notice of policy encouraging airlines to review and improve, as needed, their policies and procedures to ensure young children are seating adjacent to at least one accompanying adult to the maximum extent practicable and at no additional cost. The notice stated that in 4 months, the Department would conduct a review of the seating policies.

Upon review of the airlines' seating policies, DOT remains concerned that airlines' policies do not guarantee adjacent seats for young children traveling with a family member and that airlines do not guarantee the adjacent seating at no additional cost. To address this issue, DOT proposes to replace section 2309 of the 2018 FAA Act with a self-effectuating provision that would amend chapter 417 of title 49, U.S. Code. The new provision would explicitly state that U.S. and foreign airlines shall seat young children adjacent to at least one accompanying adult at no additional cost, subject to certain conditions such as the family being booked in the same class of service.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this legislative proposal to Congress from the standpoint of the President's program.

Enclosed with this letter is legislative language for the proposal. I urge Congress's favorable consideration of this proposal. If you or your staff have any questions regarding the proposal, please contact me or Mr. Mohsin Syed, Assistant Secretary of Government Affairs, at (202) 770-8559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Buttigieg", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Pete Buttigieg

Enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Pete Buttigieg

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