



April 16th, 2010

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable John Mica
Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Jerry Costello
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee

The Honorable Thomas Petri
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee

Dear Committee Leadership:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 4714, the "National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010." We are particularly thankful for your efforts to increase funding to the NTSB so that it can reach its staffing goal of 477 full-time employees and provide more thorough investigations into transportation accidents affecting the air medical community.

As leaders in the air medical community, the safety of our passengers and crew is of utmost importance. The industry continually strives to identify and mitigate potential risks to safety. In this effort, information is power. While technological advances have become an effective tool in mitigating safety risks, the industry cannot rely on technology alone. There will always be human and other factors involved in air medical flights that must be understood in order to manage them safely.

There are a number of ongoing collaborative efforts within the industry (such as the efforts of the IHST and Dr. Blumen's OSI project) that are analyzing the air medical accidents of the past in hopes of identifying and correcting any issues that might prevent further accidents in the future. Each of these efforts relies heavily on information and analysis provided by the NTSB, and each of these efforts has identified the lack of detailed accident data as a key obstacle to their efforts.

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The NTSB understands these concerns and has been working diligently to correct them with the resources and authority they have. The increased funding levels and authorization adjustments contained in H.R. 4714 will give the NTSB the ability to increase the number of available investigators and the authority to provide more detailed analysis of both accidents and incidents. Again, any information gained from these investigations will only benefit efforts to prevent such incidents in the future. The alternative -- decreasing funding to the NTSB -- would have a detrimental effect on all of the public and private efforts that seek to minimize transportation safety risks.

We thank you for your support of the NTSB, and your efforts to work with the air medical industry in ensuring the safest possible services for the patients we serve.

Sincerely,



Dan Hankins, MD, FACEP
President



Dawn Mancuso, MAM, CAE
Executive Director/CEO

Supporting Organizations:

Air Medical Physician Association



National EMS Pilots Association

