

April 30, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Aviation
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman James L. Oberstar, Chairman Jerry F. Costello, Ranking Member John L. Mica, and Ranking Member Thomas E. Petri,

My name is Stacey Friedman; I am the sister of Erin Reed, a flight nurse who died in a preventable air medical accident on September 29, 2005 in Seattle, Washington. I am also the founder of SafeMedFlight, a family victim advocate group that exists to advance the safety of EMS flights. I am writing to express my support of H.R. 4714, the National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010.

Last year, I testified on EMS flight safety before the House Subcommittee on Aviation. Time and again, my testimony referenced the critical safety changes needed to improve EMS flights; safety changes developed and advanced by the NTSB. The NTSB is the only agency that exists to help prevent accidents, save lives, and reduce injuries. Failure to fund the NTSB so that it can reach its staffing level of 477 full-time employees would mean reduction in services for an already overtaxed agency. No other agency is in a position to improve transportation safety like the NTSB, yet its funding levels are a mere fraction of that of other government agencies.

Please carefully consider the NTSB's mission "From tragedy we draw knowledge to improve safety for us all" and support H.R. 4714, the National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010.

Sincerely
Stacey Friedman

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