

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We write to express our serious concern for passengers impacted by the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) temporary flight restrictions (TFRs), which were implemented from January 3, 2026, through 12:00 a.m. on January 4, 2026, following military action in Venezuela. Although the restrictions were implemented to ensure the safety of the flying public, this resulted in the cancellation of hundreds of flights throughout the Caribbean region, with a particular impact on Puerto Rico, leaving thousands of passengers stranded during a peak holiday travel period. While we appreciate the FAA's and airlines' swift response and their assistance to passengers in rebooking travel, we urge the Administration to deploy all available resources to support passengers, so they are not left to absorb the unexpected financial costs resulting from these government-directed flight restrictions.

It has been reported that several airlines offered change-fee waivers and, in some cases, reimbursed passengers for rebooking with other airlines when they were unable to rebook with the original airline. Unfortunately, it has been communicated that some airlines are not reimbursing passengers for hotel accommodations incurred as a result of these flight disruptions. Moreover, it is our understanding that some passengers were unable to secure timely return flights, as a result leaving certain travelers without accommodations or the financial means to cover additional lodging costs.

Because these disruptions were the direct result of the recent military action in Venezuela, the Administration must address the financial harm imposed on affected passengers. Given the time-sensitive and ongoing nature of this situation, we request detailed responses to the following questions by January 16, 2026:

1. Following the January 3–4, 2026 FAA flight restrictions, will the Administration establish a formal policy to provide financial relief to passengers affected by these government-directed restrictions to commercial air travel?
2. What specific steps has the Administration taken, or does it intend to take, to ensure passengers who incurred unexpected expenses as a result of these flight restrictions are provided financial relief?
3. What direction, if any, has the Department provided to airlines regarding reimbursement for incurred costs during this disruption?
4. What steps will the Administration take to ensure passengers traveling to and from Puerto Rico are not disproportionately harmed by future government-directed airspace closures?

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



André Carson
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



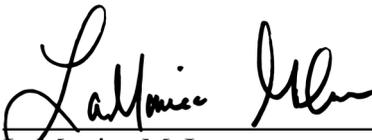
Dan Goldman
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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Ritchie Torres
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LaMonica McIver
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Jan Schakowsky
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Chrissy Houlahan
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George Latimer
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Shri Thanedar
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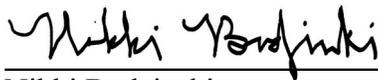
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Nikki Budzinski
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