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Congress of the United States
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April 2, 2012

Mr. Thomas W. Horton
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX, 76155

Dear Mr. Horton,


I want to thank you for the involvement of American Airlines in the anti-human trafficking training that my office held in conjunction with airport staff and international non-profit, Airline Ambassadors at San Francisco Airport on March 12th, 2012. More than 150 airport and airline personnel participated, including several American Airlines employees. San Francisco Airport resides in my district and is now home to the most comprehensive, collaborative training on this issue thanks to the March event. I want to thank you for your attention to this extremely important issue and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you in greater detail.

As you know better than I, the demands confronting airlines during these challenging times are substantial, which is further reason that I appreciate your attention to this humanitarian atrocity. The statistics are staggering -- as many as 300,000 domestic minors are trafficked right here in the United States every year. Because commercial sexual exploitation of children is both less risky and more profitable than selling drugs, it has become the third most lucrative criminal activity globally. Traffickers are constantly moving their victims from one city to the next and utilize every mode of transportation available, including airplanes, to do so. That is why it is absolutely critical that airline personnel have the training to recognize potential victims and the tools to quickly notify law enforcement authorities.

In the coming days I will be speaking with my Congressional colleagues who represent districts where airports are located to discuss the need for nationwide airport trainings. In the interim, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the resources available that American Airlines can use to train your personnel. For example, the Department of Homeland Security recently launched the Blue Lightning Initiative, which focuses on providing US commercial airlines with training on this subject. Please contact me by calling Washington DC office at (202) 225-3531 so we can speak further.

I again thank you for your attention to this extremely important issue and look forward to working you.

All the best,



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

Cc: Denise Marrs & Erin Timmions, SFO American Airlines Station Managers