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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
GOVERNOR

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The recent conduct of United Airlines personnel has shined a bright light on an issue which the President's announced regulatory reform could target and benefit travelers all across America.

Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey is a major hub of operations for United Airlines. In fact, United operates over 70% of all of the flights at this key hub. As such, I am very concerned about one of their regular business practices.

The recent incident involving United Airlines and David Dao highlights the issue of overbooking of flights. As you are aware, every day passengers are being "bumped off" flights under authority given to United Airlines under 14 C.F.R. Part 250. The practice has become unconscionable by United and is abusing passengers coming through Newark Airport and around the nation without cause. Passengers who have paid the fare for their ticket and reserved a seat should not be subject to this arbitrary "bumping" except in the most extreme of circumstances and certainly not to accommodate employees of United Airlines.

New Jersey is looking into appropriate action to be taken to curtail this abusive practice at Newark Airport. We would ask, in the context of the President's efforts at regulatory reform to improve the lives of our citizens, that you consider the immediate suspension of this overbooking authority until a thorough review can be done by your Department.

The lives of traveling New Jerseyans are being affected every day by the abusive use of this practice. As we saw in Chicago, it is happening all over the country as well. We need this Administration to stand up for our traveling Americans. We need to put it to a stop.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Christie  
Governor

cc: President Donald Trump  
Senator Robert Menendez  
Senator Cory Booker