



PROFESSIONAL AVIATION SAFETY SPECIALISTS

1200 G Street NW, Suite 750 • Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 293-7277 • Fax: (202) 293-7727

Founded 1977

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FUNDING STABILITY ACT

PASS represents 11,000 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employees, including aviation safety inspectors, technicians, cartographers, educational technicians, support staff and other aviation professionals. PASS members inspect and certify the entire commercial and general aviation industry, install, and maintain radar, navigation systems and communication networks. These federal employees are the backbone of the largest, safest, and most complex aviation system in the world.

During the unprecedented 35-day government shutdown, from December 22, 2018, through January 25, 2019, the majority of the FAA's Flight Standards employees were furloughed from day one. This included aviation safety inspectors who oversee every aspect of the aviation industry, including manufacturing, to ensure adherence to FAA regulations and safety standards. These are the employees who inspect aircraft, flight crews and safety practices to keep all flyers safe. Removing them from the job stripped a vital layer of safety. Many of these safety critical employees were furloughed for weeks while some aviation safety inspectors were slowly called back as the shutdown continued. It took weeks, and even months, to clear up the backlog of critical safety information from the aviation industry that needed to be entered into the FAA's systems.

The FAA's technician workforce was on the job for 35 days without pay, but as the shutdown dragged on and bills piled up, these dedicated men and women became increasingly stressed, anxious, and distracted. With limited administrative staff providing logistical support, the backlog of paperwork piled up and left the system riddled with senseless administrative delays. Combined with reduced staffing due to the furloughs, this left an undue burden on the men and women who are responsible for maintaining the world's largest and most complex air traffic control system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For each day the federal government was shut down and FAA employees were impacted, the nation's aviation system gambled with aviation safety.

In the event of any future government shutdowns, the FAA needs to be able to properly function by maintaining the national airspace and protecting the flying public. The Aviation Funding Stability Act (H.R. 4042) would ensure the smooth operation of the FAA by using existing revenues to keep the workforce on duty and focused on their critical mission. The bill only authorizes revenues to be used for 30 days.

PASS urges Congress to:

- **Protect FAA employees in the event of a future shutdown by cosponsoring and passing H.R. 4042.**