

**Written Testimony of  
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**On  
H.R. 418, REAL ID Compliance  
Before the  
Senate Communication & Technology Committee**

**9:00 a.m., February 8, 2017**

Chairman Aument, Chairman Haywood, and members of the Communication & Technology Committee; I appreciate the opportunity to share with you today the impact of the Commonwealth's non-compliance with H.R. 418, REAL ID as it relates to aviation in Pennsylvania.

My name is Rhett Workman, and I am Managing Director of Government & Airport Affairs for American Airlines. American is the largest commercial airline in the world today with more than 120,000 global employees operating 6,700 flights per day on average to 350 destinations in more than 50 countries. As the largest airline in the Commonwealth, with more than 10,000 Pennsylvania-based employees operating over 450 daily flights across eight statewide airports, American fully supports the legislature's efforts to comply with H.R. 418, REAL ID for the following reasons.

Per Department of Homeland Security regulations, as of January 22, 2018 driver's licenses issued by PennDOT will no longer be in compliance with federal standards. As a result, the drivers licenses of the more than 37,000 Pennsylvanians who fly each day for business, leisure and/or personal reasons on all commercial airlines serving Pennsylvania will no longer be accepted by airport security. Limiting their access to air travel as a result of REAL ID non-compliance will have a significant and far reaching impact in both the lives of Pennsylvania travelers and the state's economy as a whole.

Nearly 87% of American Airlines' customers travel once per year. These individuals rely on our airline and the state's airports to reach weddings, funerals, vacations and more. Since many of them travel so infrequently, forcing them to acquire another form of identification prior to traveling by air adds unnecessary and avoidable burden to their experience. The result will mean either missing important and often personal life events, or seeking alternative, less efficient forms of transportation.

In either of those scenarios, Pennsylvanians of all types are being harmed. Businesses will lose productivity due to employees needing more time to travel by bus, car or train. Individuals will be kept away from their families and loved ones during times of need, or in some cases sacrifice much needed time away for vacation. Ultimately that will lead to fewer customers for airlines like American, which in the end will imperil our ability to maintain the scale of our presence and the vast direct and indirect economic impacts it generates.

In addition to residents, Pennsylvania businesses have come to rely heavily on air travel to provide access to customers and markets both in the United States and abroad. Such

capability presents lucrative opportunities for regional companies to expand by opening more doors and allowing them to better compete in an increasingly globalized economy. Not only do strong airports and robust airline presences strengthen existing Pennsylvania businesses, but they also serve as an incentive for others to consider relocating their operations here and the jobs they bring with them. As such Pennsylvania should not place unnecessary and avoidable burdens on their ability to seamlessly send people to critical business meetings, which often lead to larger profits, more cargo and products being moved around the world and in the end, more tax revenues being generated for the state.

For these reasons and several more, American Airlines joins our Pennsylvania commercial airport partners in supporting Pennsylvania HB150 and SB133 as vehicles to bring the Commonwealth into compliance with Federal standards.

I hope my testimony has been helpful to the Committee, and that you now better understand the challenges that REAL ID non-compliance in Pennsylvania would present to businesses and residents in every corner of the state.

Thank you.