

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-
11
OFFERED BY MRS. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK OF
FLORIDA

At the end of title XI, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON COMMUNICABLE**
2 **DISEASES IN AIR TRAVEL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Aviation Administration, in coordination with the
6 Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Sec-
7 retary of Homeland Security, shall establish an inter-
8 agency task force to develop and implement a strategy to
9 identify and advance research on communicable diseases
10 in air travel.

11 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Administrator of the Fed-
12 eral Aviation Administration, in coordination with the Sec-
13 retary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary
14 of Homeland Security, shall select members of the task
15 force established pursuant to subsection (a) from the Fed-
16 eral Aviation Administration, the Department of Home-
17 land Security, and the Department of Health and Human
18 Services and such other Federal departments or agencies

1 as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administra-
2 tion considers appropriate.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—When developing a strategy
5 under subsection (a), the task force established pur-
6 suant to such subsection shall consult with aviation
7 industry, health experts, and labor stakeholders, in-
8 cluding representatives of—

9 (A) air carriers, which shall include domes-
10 tic air carriers consisting of major air carriers,
11 low-cost carriers, regional air carriers and cargo
12 carriers;

13 (B) airport operators, including with re-
14 spect to large hub, medium hub, small hub, and
15 nonhub commercial service airports;

16 (C) labor organizations that represent air-
17 line pilots, flight attendants, air carrier airport
18 customer service representatives, and air carrier
19 maintenance, repair, and overhaul workers;

20 (D) the labor organization certified under
21 section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, as
22 the exclusive bargaining representative of air
23 traffic controllers of the Federal Aviation Ad-
24 ministration;

1 (E) the labor organization certified under
2 such section as the exclusive bargaining rep-
3 resentative of airway transportation systems
4 specialists and aviation safety inspectors of the
5 Federal Aviation Administration;

6 (F) trade associations representing air car-
7 riers and airports;

8 (G) aircraft manufacturing companies;

9 (H) public health and infectious disease ex-
10 perts and researchers;

11 (I) scientists and engineers familiar with
12 air travel;

13 (J) general aviation; and

14 (K) such other stakeholders as the Admin-
15 istrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
16 considers appropriate.

17 (2) BALANCE OF INPUT.—The Administrator of
18 the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure
19 input from stakeholders under paragraph (1) is bal-
20 anced between labor stakeholders and airline, air-
21 port, and manufacturer stakeholders.

22 (d) REQUIREMENTS ON AGENCIES.—The task force
23 established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

1 (1) determine the resources needed by each de-
2 partment, agency, or administration of the Federal
3 Government;

4 (2) identify the responsibilities of each such de-
5 partment, agency, or administration; and

6 (3) catalog all interagency agreements related
7 to this section for Congress.

8 (e) CONTENTS OF STRATEGY.—The task force estab-
9 lished under subsection (a) shall develop a strategy that,
10 at a minimum—

11 (1) provides a holistic look at what is known
12 about communicable diseases in air transportation;

13 (2) identifies any areas of needed research;

14 (3) gives researchers access to relevant data, in-
15 cluding deidentified health data, and to the extent
16 practicable, gives researchers access to aircraft and
17 airports;

18 (4) incorporates, as appropriate, the consider-
19 ations made by the Comptroller General of the
20 United States to the Secretary of Transportation
21 contained in the report titled “Air Travel and Com-
22 municable Diseases: Federal Leadership Needed to
23 Advance Research”, issued in July 2022 (GAO–22–
24 104579);

1 (5) considers the latest peer-reviewed scientific
2 studies that address communicable disease with re-
3 spect to air transportation; and

4 (6) considers funding constraints.

5 (f) REPORT.—The task force established pursuant to
6 subsection (a) shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
7 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
9 tation of the Senate a report on the contents of the strat-
10 egy developed under subsection (d) and that identifies
11 what authorities, if any, the task force considers are need-
12 ed by either the task force or the membership agencies
13 of the task force to help ensure implementation of the
14 strategy developed under subsection (d).

15 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—The term “air
17 transportation” means the movement of passengers
18 and airline crew through airports, onto and off air-
19 craft, and in the aircraft cabin.

20 (2) COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.—The term “com-
21 municable disease” means a communicable disease
22 that has the potential to cause a future epidemic or
23 pandemic of infectious disease that would constitute
24 a public health emergency of international concern
25 as declared, after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
2 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 247d).

