



March 27, 2024

LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Safety is paramount in the aviation industry. From its inception, Let Experienced Pilots Fly, which is comprised of experienced pilots from all U.S. airlines, has been focused on safety and truth. For more than a year, aviation experts within LEPF have been working to shed light on the dangerous direction the aviation industry is headed.

There is mounting pressure on the industry that is putting the traveling public at risk. The critical shortage of experienced pilots, when combined with the critical shortage of air traffic controllers and mechanics, is presenting an increasingly dangerous situation. In an attempt to address the pilot shortage, airlines have changed hiring and training requirements, placing pilots with relatively little experience into forced command positions and positions they are unprepared to hold. Concurrently, the industry has seen an alarming increase in the number of accidents and incidents.

This past weekend, the FAA announced it would be significantly increasing oversight of United Airlines following a long series of safety incidents. These recent incidents and the FAA response has been reported in the media, and include:

- United Airlines has experienced more than half a dozen safety incidents in recent weeks - [link](#)
- The FAA will be increasing oversight to ensure that United is complying with safety regulations, identifying and mitigating risk, and effectively managing safety - [link](#)
- Due to the investigation, the FAA has halted all growth at United and has restricted United from taking delivery of new aircraft - [link](#)
- The FAA is suspending United's ability to approve and promote pilots to fly different aircraft - [link](#)
- Attached please find a letter from elected United Airline ALPA Representatives sent to their membership on March 22, 2024.
 - Highlighting the "erosion of Safety Culture" at United Airlines
 - Stating that every pilot saw this coming, but their concerns have been brushed aside

- Urging the company to reinvest in Safety Culture
- **"Refocus on mentoring not just our new pilots, but each other. We are a half step away from the crisis that has been marching steadily towards us. Its now on our doorstep."** - quote from ALPA letter
 - Let Experienced Pilots Fly is a strong advocate of mentorship in the flight deck.

The immediate focus is on Boeing and United Airlines, but the risk is system wide as a result of the lack of qualified and experienced professionals.

Raising the pilot retirement age will keep experience in the flight deck and help with the continuing pilot shortage. As long as there is a pilot shortage, there will be pressure on the industry and less experienced captains to move up the ladder too quickly. These pilots need experienced pilots to help with day to day on the job training, nothing is more important.

It is time to stop ageist discrimination against highly experienced and healthy pilots that are being forced to retire because of an outdated law. Every day approximately 17 experienced pilots are forced to leave their job simply because of their age.

Let Experienced Pilots Fly urges you to raise the pilot retirement age immediately.

Thank you