



AIR MARSHAL ASSOCIATION

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September 6, 2023

The Honorable J.D. Vance
288 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vance,

The Air Marshal Association applauds your introduction of the 'Freedom to Breathe Act' which prohibits the imposition of a mask mandate on passengers of air carriers or public transit. We offer our emphatic support for this common-sense legislation.

In 2021, I was invited to testify in an open Congressional hearing about in-flight violence along with my counterparts in the AFA, TWU, and AFGE. Masking requirements had directly contributed to a sharp increase in violence on aircraft, and air crews and aviation workers had suffered direct physical attacks because they were tasked with enforcing arbitrary masking requirements. Federal Air Marshals were routinely diverted from their national security mission to monitor and respond to masking related incidents, or were asked by air crews to intervene with non-compliant passengers.

The Air Marshal Association believes masking should be a choice, not a requirement. Air crews and transportation workers should never be compelled to enforce arbitrary policies on behalf of the government.

We support a permanent ban on masking requirements in public transportation, but believe that prohibiting masking requirements through December 31, 2024 will send a clear message.

The Air Marshal Association stands ready to assist your office in the passage of this important legislation. We look forward to working with your staff, and you can count on our enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

John Casaretti - President
Air Marshal Association

On behalf of the Air Marshal Association Executive Board

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN@AIMMARSHAL.ORG

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