

# Aerospace Medical Association



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August 17, 1995

The Honorable Federico Peña  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peña:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Aerospace Medical Association, an organization of 3,800 physicians and scientists in the field of aviation and space medicine. With the growing number of air travelers, we expect an increased incidence of in-flight illness requiring the care of a physician passenger. However, it is our impression that physicians will frequently not answer the call to tend to a sick passenger because of a fear of litigation. Hence, we feel that the time has come to enact a good Samaritan law applicable to physicians who render in-flight care. To this end, we are currently contacting members of Congress.

We also feel that this issue deserves international attention and that overtures should be made to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. Consequently, I would, on behalf of the Aerospace Medical Association, urge you to request the US Representative to ICAO, Ms. C.J. Carmody, to raise the issue in that international body with an eye toward a resolution regarding a good Samaritan law applicable to all (ICAO) member states.

The Aerospace Medical Association stands ready to assist in any way. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

*Russell B. Rayman M.D.*  
Russell B. Rayman, M.D.  
Executive Director

RBR: jc

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