

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
2365 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Appropriations Committee  
HT-2 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Appropriations Committee  
1114 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Graves, and Ranking Members Lowey and Wasserman Schultz:

We write to request that the following language be added to the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act:

*“None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to purchase first-class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulation.”*

Efficient travel to and from congressional districts contributes to effective execution of the constitutional and official duties of members of Congress. As with all federal spending, Member’s Representational Allowance funds are taxpayer dollars. As such, the use of these funds must be exercised with the utmost efficiency and transparency. A loophole currently exists that allows members of Congress to fly first-class at the expense of the taxpayer.

Members of Congress are public servants of the people and shouldn’t be considered a privileged class.

As such, we must be judicious in the travel expenses that are paid for with federal funds. Luxury airfare accommodations utilizing taxpayer monies would seem inappropriate in any fiscal climate, but at a time of soaring deficits and with a federal debt in excess of \$18 trillion, such expenditures are especially wasteful.

The requested language allows for reasonable exceptions like accommodating a disability or other substantiated medical need. These provisions also seek to codify language that is in line with requirements for travel by employees in the Executive Branch. If federal restrictions prohibit members of

our military from traveling first-class, this same standard should also apply to Members of Congress. We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in the FY2016 appropriations process.

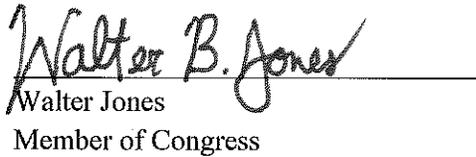
Sincerely,



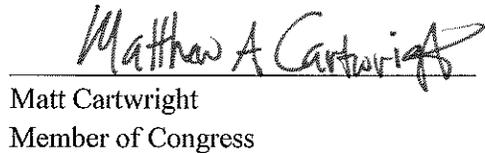
Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



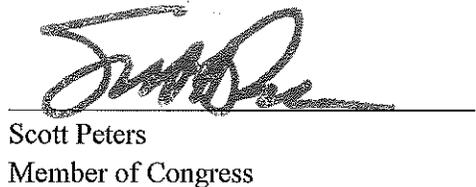
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Rod Blum  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham  
Member of Congress