MINETA INTRODUCES FLIGHT ATTENDANT DUTY TIME ACT

On Tuesday, September 27, 1988, Representative Norman Mineta (D-CA) introduced the "Flight Attendant Duty Time Act". This Bill represents an historic milestone for flight attendants recognizing our importance as safety professionals.

The legislation requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to limit the number of hours flight attendants can remain on duty and to regulate minimum rest requirements. The Bill states that a domestic flight attendant can only work a maximum of 14 hours actual duty time with a minimum of at least 10 consecutive hours of rest after each duty period. All flight attendants will also receive at least a continuous one (1) hour rest break on any flight scheduled for eight (8) hours or more in a designated rest area.

It instructs the FAA to establish standards within 180 days of the Bill's passage. If the FAA fails to issue regulations, the standards included in the Act will become law.

The bill was introduced with the full support of the Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions. Collectively, the Coalition represents all 70,000 unionized flight attendants.

During the first quarter of 1989 we plan to hold joint union meetings across the country bringing AFA members together with other flight attendant union members to work collectively towards ensuring passage of this important legislation. Your grassroots support will be crucial in this fight.

For now, we urge you to watch the bulletin boards and clear your calendars during the first few months of 1989 in anticipation of the reintroduction of this important legislation during the 101st Congress.