

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Mask requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be lifted around the country, and Americans are safely embracing their pre-pandemic lifestyles. With the Federal transportation mask mandate deadline nearly upon us, we write once again to urge you to rescind, or decline to extend, this unnecessary mask mandate and work with Congress to get our Nation's transportation system back to normal.

We believe the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) extension of the transportation mask mandate last month ran counter to your public health agency's announcement that most Americans could forego wearing a mask indoors.¹ It is our belief that these inconsistent decisions further erode public trust in the Federal government, especially when transportation operators have taken significant steps to keep passengers safe.

The American people have seen through the false logic that COVID-19 only exists on airplanes and public transportation. They see it every day when they go to a grocery store, restaurant, shopping mall, or movie theater with no masks in sight, leading them to demand unneeded mandates come to an end. In response to this outcry, 21 states have filed suit to put an end to this egregious transportation mask mandate overreach. In addition, you've received letters from various transportation stakeholders urging you to put pandemic-related travel restrictions behind us.² Specifically, the White House received letters from the U.S. Travel Association, Airlines for America, and the American Bus Association, all of whom are imploring your Administration to either repeal the transportation mask mandate immediately or let it expire.³

¹ Letter from Sam Graves, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Transp. and Infrastructure, et. al., to President Joseph R. Biden (Mar. 17, 2022) (on file with Committee); *see also* Letter from Roger Wicker, Ranking Member, S. Comm on Commerce, Science, and Transp., et al., to President Joseph R. Biden (Mar. 10, 2022) (on file with Committee).

² Compl., State of Florida et al., v. Walensky et al., (M.D. Fla. 2022) (No. 22-718).

³ Letter from Roger Dow, President and CEO, U.S. Travel Association to Dr. Ashish Jha, Incoming COVID Response Coordinator, White House, (Mar. 22, 2022), *available at* <https://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/3.22-ustlettertojha-a.pdf>; *see also* Letter from Nicholas Calio, President and CEO, Airlines for America, et al. to President Joseph R. Biden (Mar. 23, 2022), *available at* https://www.airlines.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-23-22-A4A-Board-Letter-to-President-Biden-on-Mask-Mandates-and-Testing-Requirements_.pdf; *see also* Letter from Peter J. Pantuso, President and CEO, American Bus Association to President Joseph R. Biden (Mar. 25, 2022), *available at* https://www.buses.org/assets/images/uploads/pdf/ABA_Letter_to_Biden_re_Mask_Mandate.pdf.

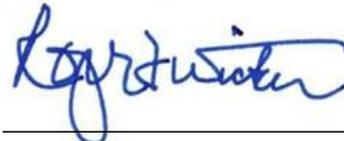
On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched its COVID-19 Community Level Framework, to ensure consistent Federal mask policies.⁴ However, TSA's extension of its mask mandate following the CDC's new framework, means that there is no excuse for failing to align the Federal mask policies.

At a time when operators across all modes of our Nation's transportation system are grappling with sky-rocketing fuel prices and the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Administration's policies should reflect nothing less than steadfast support for the transportation sector's rapid recovery. To that end, we urge you to join us in supporting our Nation's transportation operators, employees, and users by ending immediately the Federal transportation mask mandate, or allowing it to expire once and for all.

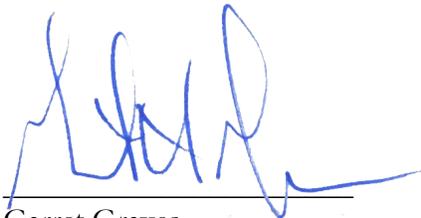
Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation



Garret Graves
Ranking Member
U.S. House Subcommittee on Aviation



Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Safety,
Operations, and Innovation

⁴ See CDC, Use of Care of Masks (Feb. 25, 2022), available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html?s_cid=11721:covid%20variant%20mask:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY22.