

FLY TOGETHER ACT OF 2023

Congresswoman Ann Wagner and Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger

On June 15, 2023, Rep. Ann Wagner introduced the *Fly Together Act of 2023* to ensure that young children are seated together with their family members on flights.

THE PROBLEM

After hearing from families across the nation, Congress passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill in 2016. This law included language that required the Secretary of Transportation to establish a policy, if appropriate, requiring airlines to seat young children with their family members on flights without charging them additional fees. This language was inspired by the *Families Flying Together Act*, introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis in 2015.

However, families across the country continue to be separated from their children during air travel. Not seating children next to at least one family member is unnecessary and dangerous, and no parent should be forced to pay extra, discriminatory fees just so that they can create a basic, safe environment for their young child on board a plane.

THE SOLUTION

The *Fly Together Act* would direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rulemaking requiring airlines to seat young children with their family members on flights to the greatest extent practicable and at no additional cost within the same class of service.

Recognizing that many families rely on low-cost, flexible air travel, the legislation explicitly prohibits the imposition of any changes in the seating or boarding policy of an air carrier providing passenger air transportation that has an open or flexible seating policy in place that generally allows adjacent family seating, such as Southwest Airlines.