

February 1, 2018

Doug Parker  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
American Airlines  
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas 76155

Dear Mr. Parker:

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) recently wrote to you about an incident that occurred on an American Airlines flight. A nurse practitioner (NP) was refused access to the plane's medical kit during an inflight medical emergency. Upon further discussion with the crew, the NP was told that, per an American Airlines policy, NPs and physician assistants (PAs) are not allowed access to certain components of the medical kit. The Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA) is concerned about the impact this policy may have on passengers who are experiencing a medical emergency onboard an American Airlines flight.

SEMPA agrees with AANP that PAs and NPs are well qualified to assist during a medical emergency. PAs receive more than 2,000 hours of clinical training, not including didactic training. All PAs receive training in emergency medicine during their education. Emergency medicine is the third most common practice specialty for PAs. To restrict the services of highly skilled PAs would be a disservice to your passengers. According to the Aviation Medical Assistance Act of 1998, which is a federal statute, a medically qualified individual *"includes any person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise qualified to provide medical care in a State, including a physician, nurse, **physician assistant**, paramedic, and emergency medical technician."*

To have a company policy that does not allow PAs and NPs access to the plane's complete medical kit is putting your passengers' lives at risk. If the aforementioned incident was a misunderstanding and American Airlines' policy does allow PAs and NPs complete access to the medical kit, perhaps staff training and education on who can access the complete medical kit could benefit everyone, especially your passengers.

If we can help in any way, please let us know.

Warm regards,



Lee Morissette, MPAS, PA-C  
President

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