

Good Jobs for Good Airports Act

Senator Edward J. Markey and Representative Jesús G. “Chuy” García

Airport service workers—a largely Black, brown, and immigrant workforce—serve on the frontlines of our nation’s aviation system and have kept our airports safe and functioning through a global pandemic, climate disasters, and busy travel seasons. Congress recognized the contributions of these workers—who include cleaners, wheelchair agents, baggage handlers, concessionaires, and security personnel—when it provided over \$5 billion during the pandemic to keep them on airports’ payroll. Despite the health risks, these workers played, and continue to play, an essential role during the pandemic.

As air travel continues to recover, we must ensure that our public resources serve the public good. Every year, airports receive billions of dollars in federal funds, but airport service workers remain underpaid and overworked. This does not just hurt workers. It hurts consumers. Studies show that paying airport service workers a living wage and benefits improves airport services and security by lowering turnover and ensuring that airports have an experienced workforce to serve passengers and respond to emergencies. By improving the quality of airport service jobs, we can also improve the quality of our airports.

The **Good Jobs for Good Airports Act** ensures that the public has access to safe, reliable air travel by raising the labor standards for airport service jobs. Specifically, the Act:

- Prevents small, medium, and large hub airports from accessing federal funds unless airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and benefits as established by the Department of Labor
- Requires airports to ensure that service workers employed by vendors (such as restaurants and retail stores) are paid the prevailing wage and benefits
- Applies to \$11 billion in airport funding each year, including \$3.2 billion in Airport Improvement Program grants, \$3.5 billion airports receive from passenger facility charges, and \$4 billion in funds under the bipartisan infrastructure law

The **Good Jobs for Good Airports Act** is endorsed by: SEIU, CWA, Unite Here, the Transportation Workers Union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the International Association of Machinists, the Association of American Flight Attendants-CWA, 32BJ SEIU, SEIU Local 1, SEIU USWW, SEIU 6, SEIU Local 49, SEIU Local 26, SEIU Local 105, and SEIU Texas.