

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 10, 2021

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The undersigned organizations are writing to thank you for introducing the U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act of 2021 (S. 2888), legislation that would direct the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Aviation Administration to develop federal regulations to ensure all passengers on domestic flights, crewmembers and other airport personnel are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result or recovery from COVID-19, consistent with CDC's current order for passengers flying to the U.S. from a foreign country. Additionally, the bill would ensure that the new regulations include exceptions for individuals who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons or age.

Our organizations believe that S. 2888 is an important step towards boosting vaccination rates and protecting airline passengers, employees, children and other vulnerable individuals, and flight destination communities so that we can put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. As the nation enters the high season of holiday travel, this is critically important.

According to a study published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), people traveling to other counties or states in 2020 contributed to higher COVID-19 case numbers in their destination communities. Authors of the study [later observed](#) that this was especially true during the 2020 summer and winter holidays. Additionally, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported that each of the last two weeks of the 2020 holiday season saw more people screened by TSA at U.S. airports since the week of March 15, 2020. The upcoming surge of holiday travel highlights the urgency of your legislation.

A [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) poll found that about three in 10 people surveyed who were waiting to be vaccinated said they would be more likely to get vaccinated if airlines required passengers to be vaccinated. This number increased to about four in 10 among unvaccinated individuals who said they would only get the vaccine if required. These data make clear that your legislation can be expected to significantly boost vaccination rates.

Currently, 192 million people are fully vaccinated and 222 million individuals have received at least one vaccine dose [according to the CDC](#), but these numbers must be higher to slow transmission and eventually halt the pandemic.

Thank you for leadership on this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Public Health Association
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
The American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Big Cities Health Coalition
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Georgetown University Law Center
The Gerontological Society of America
Infectious Diseases Society of America
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Public Health Institute
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America