



ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS-CWA, AFL-CIO
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Mr. Scott Kirby
Chief Executive Officer
United Airlines

Dear Scott,

I am writing in response to concerns from Flight Attendants represented as well as passengers traveling on our planes.

On Thursday, May 26, our office began to receive messages and social media outreach with images of signs in George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) that read "Welcome to Houston 2022 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits."

These signs are triggering following the horrific tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, where an 18-year-old gunman entered Robb Elementary School on May 24th and murdered 19 fourth graders and their two teachers less than one week before summer break.

I'm sure you are also aware of the brutal murder of 10 people in Buffalo, New York on May 14, when a gunman espousing white nationalist ideology and racist conspiracies targeted the city's Black population.

In the wake of these crimes that shock the conscience, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has resorted to the same response they have honed for more than 40 years. Rather than work together for common-sense regulations that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals while protecting rights of law-abiding Americans, the NRA has pushed reckless and irresponsible ideas designed to distract the public and lawmakers until the memory of each successive tragedy fades. The institution shows no remorse and celebrating their convening in Houston where they will coordinate further on these tactics certainly feels contrary to the ideals of aviation in bringing people together.

The NRA has been an obstacle to responsible gun law reform, and has at every turn pushed "solutions" that are both morally reprehensible and functionally unworkable. For example, in the wake of the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, - where our United family felt the tragedy personally with the loss of Gina Montalto - the NRA proposed that we should arm teachers and bring more guns into our schools. Flight Attendants worked tirelessly to ban weapons of any kind from our workplace, and lawmakers and regulators have agreed. We know that adding guns to Americans' workplaces will not make them safer.

The NRA is at odds with both an overwhelming majority of Americans and with a significant majority of gun owners. By broad margins, [Americans support stronger laws](#) including expanded background checks, and banning the type of assault weapons used by mass shooters from Uvalde to Las Vegas to Newtown.

United Airlines carries 78% of the seat share at IAH, meaning an overwhelming number of the workers and passengers traversing the airport are United employees or customers. A small number of these will be attendees of this event, but so will hundreds of thousands of Americans who are horrified by recent events and the NRA's role in facilitating the ongoing scourge of gun violence in America.

As I noted to begin, our union has already received numerous horrified messages from Flight Attendants and the public about the signs in IAH welcoming the NRA to Houston. As the mother of a sixth grader and a person of good conscience, I too would be horrified to find signs welcoming this event just days after the mass murder of innocent children and their teachers just a few hundred miles away.

If the NRA insists on continuing with this event, that is their right. However, the Houston Airport System has no obligation to cause further discomfort or trauma to hundreds of thousands of aviation workers and passengers on behalf of the organizers and attendees of this event.

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA urges you to immediately work with your counterpart in the Houston Airport System, Mr. Mario C. Diaz, to remove any signs the airport has in public areas welcoming the NRA or otherwise mentioning this event.

Thank you for your swift action to restore dignity and the assurance of safety to United's passengers and workers.

Sincerely,



Sara Nelson
AFA International President