

Targeting the Aviation Workforce

The so-called Department of Government Efficiency originally fired about 400 dedicated safety employees at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who help ensure the safety of aviation in the United States, claiming to root out fraud and waste, and increase efficiency. But a closer look at the facts shows that this will make air travel more inefficient for the millions of Americans who fly every day. These fired employees were responsible for designing flight routes, processing medical certificates to keep controllers and pilots on the job, maintaining air traffic facilities and communications equipment for controllers, and more.

Does cutting aviation experts make air travel more efficient? Of course not.

The aviation safety workforce is already under-staffed. Considering that the total volume of American flights is increasing, especially as summer travel season is around the corner, depriving the FAA and airline safety of its critical employees is anything but efficient. And after TSA scrapped their collective bargaining agreement with hardworking TSA security screening employees, reports indicate DOGE is even coming after the TSA K9 units.

While DOGE claims to be bringing greater efficiency to government, actions like this are ineffective and just plain stupid, and worse, they could be dangerous to public safety across the country.

If aviation safety professionals do not have the resources or manpower to ensure the safety of every flight, flights will be delayed or cancelled at an increasing rate.

Scott Kirby, CEO of United Airlines said when the FAA is short staffed, **“What it does is slow down. They cancel flights, they delay flights to keep it safe.”**

Air travel is already stressful enough. Now your flights will be delayed longer and more of your vacation will be spent at the gate, or on a layover, thanks to FAA layoffs.

As David Spero, President of Professional Aviation Specialists at the AFL-CIO said, these slapdash moves threaten the “effectiveness of the system as a whole.”

How is any of this efficient?

Charles Spitzer-Stadtlander,
*a fired FAA National Defense
Program employee, said:*

“I was working on incredibly important national security work. And by being summarily fired without any warning, actually while I was in the process of working, I think that that is detrimental to national security.”

Source: CNN

DEEP CUTS

- ▶ **400** FAA employees laid off in initial sweep
- ▶ The Trump administration sent out a second round buyout offer to DOT personnel, offer ended April 7
- ▶ Collective bargaining agreement cut for TSA officials in March

DEEP IMPACTS

- ▶ **2.9 million** Americans fly **every day** on flights kept safe by the FAA
- ▶ The total volume of flights is expected to **double** in the next decade
- ▶ The air traffic control workforce decreased **by 10%** in the last decade