

The Honorable Jerry Costello, Chair  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Aviation Subcommittee  
House of Representatives  
2408 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515 □  
Phone: (202) 225-5661  
Fax: (202) 225-0285

As Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Aviation Subcommittee and having commissioned the GAO Report on EMS flight safety, you must be aware of the increase in fatal accidents among EMS flight programs. More often these accidents kill flight crews tasked with saving the lives of others. How do I know this? I know because my sister Erin was a flight nurse and 28-year EMS veteran who lost her life in a needless air medical accident.

I am writing to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 3939, a bill that would protect flight crews and passengers on EMS aircraft. Currently, air medical programs are exempt from the most basic safety rules required in general aviation such as pilot duty rest, adherence to basic weather minimums, and onboard cockpit data recorders.

Since Erin's death, 44 more people have died in air medical accidents. In the past last six months, there have been nine medical helicopter crashes and 17 deaths. According to the National Safety Council, air medical flight crews have the highest mortality rate of any profession outside the U.S. military.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you or your aide H.R. 3939 and other important air medical safety legislation in the Senate.

You can reach me at 916-934-0472 or 916-425-3113 (cell).

Stacey Friedman  
Sister of Erin Reed  
[staceyfriedman@comcast.net](mailto:staceyfriedman@comcast.net)