

# **Airplane Kids In Transit Safety (KITS) Act of 2017**

*Introduced by U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Jerry Moran*

## **Updating emergency medical kits on airplanes to contain medications and devices to treat children**

- The Airplane Kids In Transit Safety (KITS) Act would direct the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to **ensure that airlines' emergency medical kits (EMKs) contain appropriate medication and equipment for children**, in order to meet their emergency medical needs.
- EMKs are used onboard aircraft in an emergency medical situation and are required to contain equipment and medicines like a stethoscope, antihistamine tablets, aspirin, and a CPR mask, among other items.<sup>1</sup>
- Medical emergencies frequently occur on commercial flights and emergency planning must take into account the different medications and medical devices that children need.
- The FAA requires that an EMK be carried on board any flight with a flight attendant, but these kits do not include key life-saving equipment, such as:
  - **Infant-sized oropharyngeal airways (OPA):** The OPAs in EMKs are too large to maintain or open an infant's airway;
  - **Infant-sized bag-mask valve ventilation:** Pediatric-sized masks are too large to form the necessary seal on an infant's face;
  - **Epinephrine auto-injectors:** Used to treat potentially fatal anaphylaxis, one of the most common pediatric emergencies; and
  - **Liquid drug formulations and dosing:** Babies and toddlers are unable to swallow pills and children require different doses of medicine than adults.

## **Airplane KITS Act solutions**

- The Airplane KITS Act directs the FAA to initiate rulemaking within one year to ensure that EMKs contain appropriate medication and equipment to meet the emergency medical needs of children.
- The Act does not mandate what should be included in the kit; instead, it begins the public rulemaking process.

## **The Airplane KITS Act is supported by:**

- Academic Pediatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Ambulance Association
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Pediatric Society
- Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Children's Health Fund
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Family Voices
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- March of Dimes
- National Association of EMS Physicians
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- Pediatric Policy Council
- Save the Children
- Society for Pediatric Research

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Aviation Administration: [http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory\\_Circular/AC121-33B.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC121-33B.pdf)