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Administrator Marion Blakey
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401400 Seventh Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Docket Number: FAA-2004-18596 - 368

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I urge you to finalize the proposed rule to permit the use of certain portable oxygen concentrator devices on aircraft.

Over one million Americans have medical conditions that require the use of supplemental oxygen to engage in activities of daily living. With appropriate supplemental oxygen, patients can lead full, productive lives. Many patients enjoy all the travel and leisure activities - except airline travel.

This proposed rule is a step in the right direction to help passengers that require supplemental oxygen travel easier. However the proposed rule should be strengthened by having the FAA require all airlines to permit the use of FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators. Please ensure the final rule requires FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators be allowed on board all civilian air travel.

I am in the process of making arrangements to visit my elderly parents. I am a fully productive, highly educated adult who works full time. I must utilize O2 intermittently, therefore per my physician should have O2 available when I travel. I found I was limited in my travel options, which resulted in an increased fare of over \$100.00. In addition, the O2 for my flights will cost over \$400.00. If I need O2 on my plane transfers or at my destination there will be additional cost. I am very knowledgeable regarding the Reasonable Accommodation laws as I work with individuals who have disabilities. The current rules and policies are not in keeping with the current federal laws and truly discriminate against those of us who have encountered a disability in our lives. Thank you very much for considering this important change for us.

Sincerely,

Carol Runkle