

DEBBIE DINGELL  
6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

102 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4071

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH  
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE  
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 23, 2026

DISTRICT OFFICES:

2006 HOGBACK ROAD  
SUITE 7  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48105  
(734) 481-1100

WOODHAVEN CITY HALL  
21869 WEST ROAD  
WOODHAVEN, MI 48183  
(313) 278-2936

WEBSITE: DEBBIEDINGELL.HOUSE.GOV

Mr. Scott Kirby  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Airlines  
233 S. Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606

Ms. Terri Fariello  
Executive Vice President  
Government Affairs & Global Public Policy  
United Airlines  
815 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Kirby and Ms. Fariello:

This letter is regarding the second reported incident in less than a month involving a United Airlines passenger subjected to a passenger's lewd behavior and an inadequate response from the airline. On a recent United flight from San Diego to Newark, a woman reported the misconduct to the flight crew and had to ask multiple times to change seats. Afterward, she was not given any guidance about reporting the incident until she contacted United herself days later.<sup>1</sup> This follows reports from last month about a nearly identical incident, which I addressed in a letter to United alongside the Democratic Women's Caucus on October 6, 2026.<sup>[2][3]</sup> In its October 16, 2026, response, United provided an insufficient explanation, largely deferring responsibility for the incident to their regional partner, Republic Airways, who operated the flight, despite their own admission that Republic is under United's operational control.

This second incident raises serious questions about United's sexual misconduct protocol and its commitment to passenger safety, specifically the safety of women. United's claim in its written response that they are working to strengthen its policies and training protocols is not enough. It is past time for United to have "conversations in their leadership meetings," as a customer service supervisor told the San Diego passenger. We need action, and we need it now.

Incidents like these are not exclusive to United, and sexual misconduct is a broader issue across the airline industry that demands attention and accountability. That is why I will be introducing

---

<sup>1</sup> [San Diego woman says passenger masturbated next to her on United Airlines flight](#), Alexis Rivas and Mike Dorfman, October 21, 2026, *7 San Diego*.

<sup>2</sup> [Woman recalls worst nightmare 'trapped' on Newark flight next to this man](#), NBC New York Staff, September 25, 2026, *NBC New York*.

<sup>3</sup> [DWC Member Debbie Dingell Slams United Airlines CEO for Gross Mishandling of Sexual Harassment on Flight](#), October 6, 2026, *Democratic Women's Caucus*.

legislation to strengthen passenger protections and ensure airlines take appropriate action in response to sexual misconduct. Addressing this kind of behavior is essential to ensuring that women can travel with safety and dignity. Airlines must do better.

Please provide a written response by Friday October 30, 2026, detailing the concrete steps United will take to improve flight crews' response to sexual misconduct incidents, including how they can more meaningfully support passengers who report inappropriate behavior.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress