

# **HR 5105: The Responsive Employees Support Productive Educated Congressional Talk (RESPECT) Act of 2019**

*Co-Leads for the RESPECT Act: Reps. Speier, Eshoo, Panetta*

The RESPECT Act requires Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) staff to answer questions submitted in writing by Members of Congress relating to flight procedures or other data affecting their district within 90 days. It would also require FAA staff to appear at a meeting or town hall with a Member of Congress with 30 days' notice and under the same terms and conditions as specified by the FAA for appearances at Aviation Roundtables.

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- The RESPECT Act requires that FAA engage with aviation roundtables, attend roundtable meetings and provide detailed answers to aviation roundtable questions submitted in advance.
- The FAA has refused to attend meetings and town halls sponsored by Members of Congress. On one occasion, a Member of Congress was assured by high-level FAA managers that they would attend and provide data for a meeting she was to convene with aviation stakeholders. As the meeting date approached, the FAA inexplicably reneged on their commitment and adamantly refused to attend.
- The FAA has refused to provide answers to written questions submitted by a Member of Congress requesting flight data for procedures impacting their constituents. After sending the original request to the FAA, the Member sent a follow-up letter, directed staff emails to be sent, and had an in-person meeting with (former) FAA Administrator Michael Huerta who assured her the data was forthcoming soon. Eight months after sending the original written request, the Member received a letter from Acting Administrator Elwell indicating in general terms that they were too busy to provide the data requested and referred the Member of Congress to some websites which “may be helpful in obtaining data.”
- The RESPECT Act requires the FAA to respond to data and meeting requests from Members of Congress in order to enable effective constituent representation. Failure to respond to requests for data or meeting attendance will require the FAA to report the failure to the requesting Member and to Congress, as described.