



April 2, 2014

Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Airports Council comments on AB 1787 - Nursing mother facilities at commercial service airports.

Dear Chairwoman Lowenthal:

On behalf of the California Airports Council (CAC), we would like to provide comments on AB 1787, a measure requiring post security nursing facilities at California commercial service airports. We commend your effort to accommodate new mothers and we appreciate the close working relationship with your staff on this topic. However, there are certain matters we would like to suggest for your consideration.

Since the economic downturn in 2009, many California airports, especially those of smaller size, have struggled to retain commercial service. It is not uncommon to see some of our smaller airports operating at a revenue loss from year to year. Due to the aforementioned circumstances, it is imperative that any mandates involving terminal construction are carefully considered to reduce risk of rates and charges augmentations and resulting increases in California airfares.

We would like to pursue cost effective, short term and long term options for airports to provide nursing locations in passenger boarding areas. The following are our suggestions for amendments that we feel fulfill your intent and accommodate airports in their pursuit of compliance.

- **AB 1787 mandates should only be required for airports with 1 million enplanements or more per year.** Of the 34 airports represented by the CAC, 24 had less than 1 million passenger enplanements in 2012. These 24 airports represented only 3% of the total 89 million California commercial service enplanements that year. However, if an airport with fewer than 1 million passengers engages in new construction or facility modernization, compliance with AB 1787 will be required.

1510 14th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel. 916.553.4999 Fax 916.447.4947
www.calairportscouncil.org

- **Options for Compliance** – Airports should be able to meet compliance standards by:
 - Modification of family/companion restrooms
 - Alteration of an existing restroom stall to include a chair and electrical outlet by removing the existing toilet.
 - Creation of a nursing mother's room

- **Time Frame for compliance** – All airports must be in compliance by January 1, 2016.

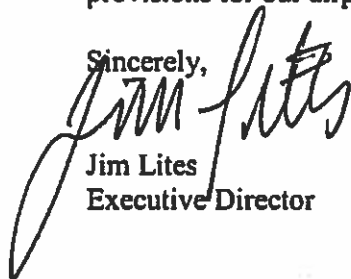
- **Existing Lease Agreements** – The provisions of the bill shall not require an airport to renegotiate or modify an existing lease agreement.

- **Criminal Charges** – Current language provides noncompliance as a punishable criminal offense for airport operators. We do not believe non-compliance merits criminal charges and should be removed from bill language.

- **Safety & American's with Disabilities Act compliance** – Any changes an airport must implement to provide a nursing location must be consistent with the requirements of the local fire marshal and maintain adherence to ADA requirements.

We believe the amendments outlined above would result in legislation that airports can implement to better serve nursing mothers. These suggestions would also ensure the requirement does not result in upward pressure on California airfares. We value the working relationship we have with your office and we look forward to collaborating with you to find reasonable provisions for our airports to comply with AB 1787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Lites", written over the typed name and title.

Jim Lites
Executive Director

2012 California Commercial Service Passenger Enplanements

