



jetBlue

LAWMAKER:

JETBLUE WORKERS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THE EARNED SICK TIME LAW

A Massachusetts lawmaker is taking action to require JetBlue to obey the Massachusetts Earned Sick Time Law after IAM Union activists began bringing the issue to light.

The Massachusetts Earned Sick Time Law allows JetBlue Crewmembers to miss work in order to deal with personal medical issues, including trips to the pharmacy, doctor visits and to care for sick family members.

In a sternly worded letter, Massachusetts State Representative Adrian Madaro announced that he takes allegations of mistreatment against JetBlue Crewmembers "very seriously" and that he would begin working with the state's Attorney General's Office to resolve the matter.

At issue is a key provision of the law that prohibits employers from punishing workers that use up to 40 hours of leave each year to attend to medical needs. According to complaints filed against the airline, JetBlue is ignoring the law and counting qualifying absences as attendance "occurrences" which can lead to the termination of the employee.

Representative Madaro called on JetBlue Crewmembers who are facing attendance related disciplinary measures as a result of this policy to contact the Attorney General's Office "as soon as possible."

Crewmembers targeted for discipline or retaliation by JetBlue may file a complaint with the Massachusetts Attorney General online. Links are available at IAMJETBLUE.COM, under the "Sick Leave Laws" tab at the top of the screen.

"I take these allegations very seriously," Madaro wrote, promising to continue to take action that would be helpful to affected workers. However, he also stressed the importance of reporting violations of the law. "The Attorney General cannot enforce the law if there are no documented complaints." Representative Madaro went on to say that, "If a high volume of complaints about a particular employer are brought to the Attorney General's Office, this may build stronger momentum to bring the action to court."

Representative Madaro promised to look for ways to statutorily ensure that carriers at Logan Airport are following the law.

If found guilty of penalizing Crewmembers for attendance issues incurred as a result of exercising their right under the law, JetBlue could face fines as high as \$25,000 per occurrence.

"We are very grateful to Representative Adrian Madaro for helping protect the rights of Crewmembers," said Mike Bucci, a Union Activist with the IAM. "He and his staff have been very willing to listen to JetBlue Crewmembers who are being hurt by their company and have offered to help in any way they can." Bucci also praised the work of Senator Ed Markey, who has taken an active interest in the matter, as well.

"The IAM Organizing Committee in Boston has reached out to the Attorney General to make sure that JetBlue is following the parameters of the Massachusetts Earned Sick Leave Law," said fellow IAM Activist, Robert Bennett, who has helped spearhead the effort to force JetBlue to comply with the law. "Although we do not represent JetBlue currently, we still want to work with Crewmembers to ensure that JetBlue follows the Massachusetts Earned Sick Leave Law."



Adrian Madaro represents East Boston in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

Representative Adrian Madaro serves on the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Transportation, as well as the Ways and Means Committee which oversees tax policy.