

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4573

To provide for research on the use of child restraint devices on commercial aircraft.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To provide for research on the use of child restraint devices on commercial aircraft.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lap Children Safety  
5 Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LAP CHILDREN SAFETY RESEARCH.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Due to the fact that few child re-  
8 straint devices are currently approved for use during crit-  
9 ical phases of flight on commercial passenger aircraft, the  
10 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration

1 shall ensure that research in this area encourages the as-  
2 sessment and development of new and innovative tech-  
3 nologies and devices which improve the safety for children,  
4 parents, and other passengers.

5 (b) RESEARCH.—The Administrator shall require the  
6 Civil Aeromedical Institute to initiate a research program  
7 focused on improving the safety of child restraint devices  
8 used during operations of a commercial passenger aircraft.

9 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
10 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit  
11 a report on the results of the research conducted under  
12 this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and  
13 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
14 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
15 Senate. This report shall include—

16 (1) an identification of the number of children  
17 under age 2 traveling each year for the past 5 years  
18 on commercial aircraft, and a description of the  
19 types or methods of child restraint utilized, if any;

20 (2) an assessment of the safety of unrestrained  
21 lap children under age 2 (being unrestrained or re-  
22 strained only by the arms of the child's parent), and  
23 whether this situation is the proper comparison for  
24 child restraint devices to determine child safety;

1           (3) an evaluation of the requirements to dem-  
2           onstrate an equivalent level of safety to TSO-C100c  
3           for a child restraint device attached to a parent’s  
4           seatbelt, or other known child restraint devices;

5           (4) an assessment of whether the standards in  
6           section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-  
7           tions, can be met by a child restraint device attached  
8           to a parent’s seatbelt, or other known child restraint  
9           devices, and whether certain child restraint devices  
10          could offer additional protection compared to an un-  
11          restrained lap child;

12          (5) the results of any testing performed by or  
13          for the Civil Aeromedical Institute, in the last 5  
14          years, in support of any evaluations described in this  
15          section;

16          (6) a determination of whether the conclusions  
17          in the Civil Aeromedical Institute’s 1994 report ti-  
18          tled “The Performance of Child Restraint Devices in  
19          Transport Airplane Passenger Seats” need to be up-  
20          dated and the basis for such determination; and

21          (7) recommendations to the Administrator and  
22          to the Congress on potential changes to the Code of  
23          Federal Regulations or relevant laws to allow addi-  
24          tional child restraint devices to be used during all

- 1 phases of flight to keep children, their parents, and
- 2 other passengers safe.

