

January 17, 2025

Mr. Jason Robins
222 Berkeley Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Mr. Ed Bastian
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

Dear Mr. Robins and Mr. Bastian,

I write with significant concerns regarding the recently announced partnership between Delta Air Lines and DraftKings to offer in-flight gaming to passengers.¹ As you know, under the Gambling Devices Act of 1962, gambling is illegal on commercial aircraft.²

This new partnership advances the proliferation of sports betting, further fueling a crisis of problem gambling. Betting companies have leveraged data collected on consumers to entice them through bonuses and promotions to hook them on this addictive product – resulting in a public health crisis that is producing huge costs in addiction, financial ruin, family disruption and much more. This partnership seems to be aimed at enticing the flying public – many of them possibly problem gamblers or recovering problem gamblers – to engage in a high-risk activity from their seatbacks, while in the air and unable to walk away.

Problem gambling is particularly rampant among young people. Given that a significant number of minors fly each year, I am especially concerned that this partnership could be advertised or available to children, enticing them to engage in betting. Delta Air Line's family seating policy does not guarantee adjacent seats for children under thirteen and their accompanying adult, which only exacerbates these concerns.

I call on you to pause the implementation of this partnership immediately and please provide a written response to this letter with details on this agreement and any protections you may have included to protect the flying public, including minors, by no later than January 28, 2025.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

¹ John Lauristen, "Delta Air Lines Reportedly Partnering with Draftkings," *CBS News* (New York, New York) January 13, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/delta-air-lines-reportedly-partnering-draftkings/>.

² 15 USC 1172: Transportation of gambling devices as unlawful; exceptions; authority of Federal Trade Commission.