

TWA/American Airline Workforce Integration

Bill Number: Oversight

Hearing Date: June 12, 2003 - 2:00 PM

Witness:

Karen Schooling

TWA Flight Attendant

Independence, MO

Testimony:

Karen Schooling is a former TWA Flight Attendant who was initially hired by Ozark Airlines in 1975. She has 28 years of seniority, having started her flying career when she was 19 years old. Her sister is also a former TWA Flight Attendant who was furloughed in May, 2003. She was also a former Ozark Flight Attendant with 26 years of seniority. When TWA acquired Ozark in 1987, both Karen and her sister were given full credit for her years of service at Ozark.

Karen is a widow. Her husband passed away 3 ½ years ago. Karen is a single parent of a mentally-fragile son. He is profoundly disabled – both mentally and physically and requires constant care. Her son is 17 years old; weighs 32 lbs; fed through a feeding tube; and is in diapers.

Karen will be furloughed on July 2, 2003. With the furlough, she will lose Company-assisted medical benefits after thirty (30) days. Karen will be entitled to COBRA for eighteen (18) months. Because of her child's pre-existing medical problem, it will be extremely difficult – if not impossible - for her to find comparable alternate medical coverage. In April, 2003, APFA and American Airlines agreed to eliminate all severance pay for TWA, LLC Flight Attendants who are being furloughed on July 2. Had APFA and American not eliminated the severance pay, Karen would have been able to receive two (2) months of salary which she would have been able to use to pay for the 18 months of medical insurance for herself and her minor child.