

*Contract Weather Observers.*—The FAA’s Contract Weather Observer [CWO] program provides operationally significant weather information and support to the entire aviation community. CWO safety professionals observe and report operationally significant weather conditions at airports across the country. These trained specialists augment the Automated Surface Observing System [ASOS], which detects and reports basic weather information for aviation and forecasting. The Committee continues to have serious concerns about the FAA’s proposal to eliminate the CWO program and rejects the budget request to reduce the program.

*Medical Kits.*—The Committee directs the FAA to undertake a rulemaking to evaluate and revise the regulations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, regarding the emergency medical requirements, including the contents of the first-aid kit, applicable to all certificate holders operating passenger-carrying airplanes under that party. In conducting this rulemaking, the Administrator should consider whether the minimum contents of approved emergency medical kits, have approved first-aid kits, have appropriate medications and equipment to meet the emergency medical needs of children.

*Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing.*—The Committee commends the FAA for the collaborative government-industry Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing [ASIAS] program whose mission is to proactively discover and mitigate emerging safety issues, before they result in an incident or accident. The Committee appreciates this collaborative initiative that has resulted in the implementation of safety enhancements. The Committee directs the FAA to accelerate the ASIAS capabilities, including Fusion, next generation of ASIAS architecture, and expanding General Aviation safety elements and report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 180 days of the enactment of this act.

*Aviation Events.*—The Committee directs the FAA to use existing resources to provide air traffic control and safety support services at major aviation events hosted annually for the general aviation community. These services are paid for using the aviation fuel tax excise collected from general aviation users. The Committee directs the FAA to use appropriate resources to maintain the safe and efficient movement of aircraft based on projected airspace congestion at major aviation events.

*Contracting.*—The Committee is concerned that while the FAA surpasses government averages for key performance acquisition metrics, the FAA has made limited progress in reducing the number of no-bid or sole source contracts awarded. Consistent with recommendations from the OIG report ZA–2016–065, the Committee directs the FAA to establish and implement actions to reduce the use of sole-source contracting, including the use of performance measures. Further, the Committee directs the FAA to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations outlining these performance measures and providing the number and percentage of contracts awarded through the no-bid process, as well as the amount of those no-bid contracts that meet OMB requirements for such contracts.