

Annual Open Enrollment for Long Term Disability

If you are an American Airlines employee who:

- 1. Entered the TWU Bargaining Unit in the calendar year 2009 or**
- 2. Recalled from layoff (on the street two or more years)**

You are eligible for TWU's Long Term Disability Insurance. At the conclusion of the LTD Open Enrollment period, which ends April 9, 2010, eligible employees will automatically be enrolled without the requirement of a *Statement of Physical Condition*.

On March 15, 2010 TWU, Local 514 mailed, to the last-known address of all eligible members, details of the

program, an LTD Rejection Form and a postage paid return envelope. Premiums by payroll deduction and LTD coverage will begin on the first pay period in May 2010.

Members may forfeit coverage by returning the Rejection Form to TWU, Local 514 by April 9, 2010 in the postage paid envelope that was enclosed in the packet. Members who forfeit their coverage may apply at a later date; however, members filing after April 9, 2010 must meet the physical condition requirements of the Plan.

If you have any questions concerning the LTD Annual Enrollment, please do not hesitate to call Mary Gorremans, at (918) 384-9483.

Boren Remains a Firm No on Health Care Proposal

March 17, 2010

Dear Dennis,

U.S. Congressman Dan Boren issued the following statement regarding the health care reform package expected to be voted on later this week in the U.S. House of Representatives:

"I had hoped that the Administration would make good on its promise to focus on the economy and job creation now that an overwhelming majority of Americans have shown their opposition to job-killing measures like cap and trade and health care reform.

But the nearly \$1 trillion package is just more of the same big-spending, tax-laden policy that won't put Americans to work and will add to our rising national debt. The package includes nearly every major issue that caused me to vote against the first piece of health care legislation last fall in the U.S. House.

The worst thing you can do during an economic downturn is raise taxes; and this health care proposal does just that. I cannot support the tax increases on small businesses and the mandates on employers that are included in this plan because they will lead to job loss at a time when every public official should be focused solely on improving our economy and creating jobs.

After holding town halls and meeting with numerous constituents throughout last year, I know that folks in eastern Oklahoma want me focused first and foremost on creating jobs, reigning in the government spending and waste, and maintaining a strong national defense.

While I support some insurance reforms such as eliminating pre-existing conditions and making insurance plans portable across state lines, there is no chance I am voting for this bill because it raises taxes on businesses, creates job-killing mandates, grows the size of government, and cuts services to seniors."

American Air Attendants Ask for Clearance to Strike

By Mary Schlangenstein

March 16 (Bloomberg) -- American Airlines' flight attendants requested federal approval to end contract talks, a step toward the first strike at a major U.S. carrier in almost five years. The Association of Professional Flight Attendants asked the National Mediation Board to declare bargaining with AMR Corp.'s American at an impasse, union President Laura Glading said. Only the board can approve a halt to negotiations, putting the parties into a 30-day "cooling-off" period before a walkout. Glading's proposal to break off talks made the attendants union the second labor group at American to try to trigger a countdown toward a strike. The Transport Workers Union, which represents ground workers, asked permission last week to be freed from contract discussions. "I believe negotiations will continue," said Jerry Glass, president of consultant F&H Solutions Group in Washington and a former airline labor executive. The board is most likely to tell both unions and American to resume mediated talks rather than start the clock ticking toward a strike, he said. Glading told reporters on a conference call that a review of the attendants' request by the mediation board may take three weeks. She said she was hoping to avoid a strike. American is "very disappointed" the union wanted to abandon negotiations, a spokeswoman, Missy Latham, said in an e-mail message. "Talk of 'impasse' or 'release' at this time is premature, unproductive and can be detrimental to the process," she said. The mediation board didn't immediately return a voice-mail message seeking a comment. 2005 Walkout Federal law sets out the mediators' role in airline labor talks. No large U.S. carrier has suffered a strike since 2005, when 4,200 Northwest Airlines Corp. mechanics and aircraft cleaners walked off the job. Northwest, which was acquired by Delta Air Lines Inc. in 2008, responded by hiring replacements. Talks between American, the world's second-biggest airline behind Delta, and the APFA began June 10, 2008. The union, which represents 16,550 active

attendants and 1,450 on furlough, has said it will conduct a strike authorization vote. Attendants, ground workers and American's pilots union are all in contract negotiations, trying to recoup \$1.6 billion in pay and benefits given up in 2003 to save the Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier from bankruptcy. American wants to reduce its industry-leading labor costs and raise productivity. Ground Workers

Mediators haven't decided on the TWU's March 11 request to be freed from talks with American. The TWU represents ground workers including mechanics and bag handlers. Should the board conclude that Rejection by either side would start the "cooling-off" period, which would still allow for further discussions.

The board also may order the airline and the attendants to resume talks, or decree a recess in negotiations. "It doesn't necessarily bode well for American," said Henry Harteveltdt, a senior analyst at Forrester Research Inc. in San Francisco. "It is interesting that both unions, the flight attendants group and the TWU, have requested to be released, and I don't know if the NMB will try to get at least one of those back to the table." AMR fell 18 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$9.66 at 4:15 p.m. in New York Stock Exchange composite trading. The shares have gained 25 percent this year. American has told the Federal Aviation Administration that it was considering training managers and other employees as replacement attendants in the event of a strike. In 1993, American trained about 1,300 replacements to try to keep some planes flying during a five-day walkout. The strike ended when then-President Bill Clinton intervened. It cost American about \$10 million a day.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-16/amr-attendants-plan-move-toward-first-airline-strike-since-2005.html>