

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

JUNE 1, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Supports repeal of Wright Amendment.
(BDR R-1444)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Supporting the repeal
of the Wright Amendment.

1 WHEREAS, In 1967, Southwest Airlines chose Dallas Love Field
2 as the base of operations for its new, low-fare airline which was
3 based on the concept that air travel should be dependable and
4 affordable for everyone; and

5 WHEREAS, The fledgling company endured years of litigation
6 intended to prevent it from fairly competing with the newly built
7 Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and the major
8 airlines operating out of that airport; and

9 WHEREAS, With the passage of the Airline Deregulation Act in
10 1978 which took the Federal Government out of the business of
11 regulating the routes that an airline could fly, it appeared that open
12 competition would be the determining factor in air routes and air
13 fares; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1979, with the admitted purpose of protecting
15 DFW and the major airlines which serve it, Congress passed the
16 Wright Amendment which restricts travel into and out of Love Field
17 and prevents a customer from purchasing an airline ticket for travel
18 from Love Field with a destination other than Texas, Louisiana,
19 Arkansas, Oklahoma or New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, The Shelby Amendment added Kansas, Alabama
21 and Mississippi to those states in 1997; and

22 WHEREAS, While the Wright Amendment has an effect on all
23 airlines which operate out of Love Field, Southwest Airlines bears
24 the major impact of the Wright Amendment; and



1 WHEREAS, A customer traveling from Love Field cannot
2 purchase a ticket from Southwest Airlines for travel beyond any
3 point within the Wright Amendment states, even if that customer is
4 willing to make a stop within one of those states; and

5 WHEREAS, Southwest Airlines is legally prohibited from
6 offering or advertising the availability of flights between Love Field
7 and any city outside the Wright Amendment service area,
8 preventing it from competing in those markets; and

9 WHEREAS, Since Southwest Airlines is only allowed to fly
10 short-haul flights from Love Field, which is the type of flight that
11 has declined most significantly since September 11, 2001, the
12 restrictions of the Wright Amendment have limited the growth of
13 the company and the access of the public to competitive, low-cost
14 air travel; and

15 WHEREAS, Love Field will never rival DFW in the size and
16 scope of its operations because the Love Field Master Plan limits its
17 growth to 32 gates while DFW has 140 gates and is still growing;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, DFW is now the world's third busiest airport,
20 serving more than 53 million passengers last year and, because of
21 the lack of competition from airlines such as Southwest Airlines,
22 DFW has one of the highest averages for fares in the country; and

23 WHEREAS, A phenomenon labeled as "The Southwest Effect"
24 by the United States Department of Transportation has proven that
25 competition from low-cost airlines can lower air fares on all airlines,
26 thereby increasing the number of air travelers and the amount of
27 airport revenues which increases profits in the industry as a whole;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, While it has been suggested that Southwest Airlines
30 should just move some of its flights to DFW, splitting up its
31 operations would have an economic impact on its company which
32 has been proven to be one of the most profitable in the airline
33 industry, with 32 consecutive years of profitability; and

34 WHEREAS, Many experts agree that the repeal of the Wright
35 Amendment will have a positive effect on the airline industry by
36 increasing competition, thereby benefiting the public by lowering air
37 fares and giving customers more options; and

38 WHEREAS, Repeal of the Wright Amendment will benefit the
39 residents of Nevada by expanding options for travel by air and will
40 give tourists and visitors more opportunities to visit our State; now,
41 therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
2 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of
3 the Nevada Legislature support federal legislation to repeal the
4 Wright Amendment.



