

Exposed: Rampant Labor Violations in Airline Industry Leave Pilots Exhausted and Underpaid

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By [Lauren Kaori Gurley](#), [Julia Mata](#) and [Emmanuel Martinez](#)

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A shocking investigation has uncovered widespread labor violations in the U.S. airline industry, with pilots at the center of a system rife with overwork, underpayment, and disregard for safety regulations. Internal documents obtained by *The Washington Post* reveal that several major airlines have been routinely violating FAA regulations, pushing pilots beyond their legal limits.

According to multiple pilot testimonies, airlines are pressuring pilots to accept extended shifts, often forcing them to fly with insufficient rest between flights—violations of FAA rules that mandate rest periods to ensure safety. One pilot, who spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation, described working 16-hour shifts and being called back to fly after just six hours of sleep. "We're constantly on edge. There's this underlying fear that if we speak up, we'll lose our jobs," the pilot said.

The investigation also revealed that many pilots are being grossly underpaid, with entry-level pilots earning wages so low they are forced to take on second jobs or rely on food assistance programs. Pilots from regional airlines have reported annual salaries as low as \$30,000, far below the industry standard for such a high-stakes profession.

In response to these revelations, federal agencies, including the FAA and the Department of Labor, are under increasing pressure to investigate the allegations. While the airlines involved have not issued formal statements, the fallout from this investigation is expected to result in significant legal challenges and increased oversight across the industry, raising serious concerns about the future of airline safety and labor practices.