

1 **CONTINUOUS PILOT VISION ACT OF 2009 (Introduced in House)**

2 H _____

3 111th CONGRESS

4 1st Session

5 H. _____

6 IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

7 February ___, 2009

8 Mrs. Hirono (for herself) introduced the following bill

9 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

10 (a) Short Title- This Act may be cited as the ‘Continuous Pilot Vision Act’.

11 (b) Findings- Congress finds that--

12 (1) There are circumstances under which pilots will be unable to see in the

13 cockpit;

14 (A) these circumstances evolve when smoke invades the cockpit that is

15 blinding, opaque, continuous, and unstoppable from various sources, including, but

16 not limited to—

17 (i) fires on board aircraft that migrate to the cockpit;

18 (ii) exhaust smoke from engine fires;

19 (iii) electrical cockpit fires;
20 (iv) and in the case of military aircraft, hostile fire from surface-to-air
21 missiles or enemy airborne aircraft, in which the aircraft remains flyable.

22 (2) Pilots must be able to see at all times, including conditions of continuous,
23 unstopable opaque smoke;

24 (3) The Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and
25 senior members of the Federal Aviation Administration have technology on board
26 their aircraft that permit them to see when continuous, unstopable blinding
27 smoke invades their aircraft;

28 (4) This technology would permit pilots of civilian airliners, military transport,
29 and military cargo aircraft to continue to fly when continuous, unstopable
30 blinding smoke invades the cockpit;

31 (5) The only current solution for military pilots who cannot see due to continuous
32 blinding unstopable smoke is to bail out or go down with their aircraft
33 destroying expensive aircraft, risking homes and life on the ground, and the death
34 of crew and passengers;

35 (6) Procuring technology used by the Department of Transportation, the
36 Department of Homeland Security, and the FAA on civilian and military aircraft

37 increases the probability of passenger and crew survival while saving expensive
38 assets of civilian airlines and the U.S. military.

39 (c) Requirement for numbers of military transport, cargo, and other multi-crew aircraft—

40 (1) There are on the order of 11,000 civilian passenger, military cargo, and
41 transport-like aircraft, regardless of their mission, that require at least two pilots;

42 (2) Exposing these pilots to smoke in the cockpit accidents and hostile fire risks
43 both their lives and the treasure of the United States;

44 (3) The United States has long provided flotation gear to give pilots every chance
45 of survival in the event that they were shot down over water;

46 (4) It is the time to provide the same last-ditch safety equipment to civilian and
47 military pilots when the otherwise would not be able to see;

48 (5) It is cost effective to take every effort to ensure that every military crew can
49 safety return to his or her base of operations under conditions of continuous,
50 unstopable, blinding smoke.

51 **SECTION 2. PROCUREMENT FOR CONTINUOUS PILOT VISION**

52 (a) All military transport, cargo, electronic mission, executive transport, reconnaissance,
53 tanker, and trainer airplanes, as well as civilian airliners shall be equipped with the same
54 technology as the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and

55 senior members of the Federal Aviation Administration for continuing pilot vision under
56 conditions of continuous, unstoppable, blinding smoke in the cockpit;

57 (b) The funding for continuous pilot vision shall be provided over the next five fiscal
58 years beginning in FY 2009 as follow:

59 (1) \$27,500,000 for FY 2009

60 (2) \$27,500,000 for FY 2010

61 (3) \$27,500,000 for FY 2011

62 (4) \$27,500,000 for FY 2012

63 (5) \$27,500,000 for FY 2013

64 **SECTION 3. RESTRICTION ON REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO A**

65 **DIFFERENT ACCOUNT**

66 (a) The appropriations for continuous pilot vision shall be used to procure the same
67 technology for the U.S. military aircraft outlined in section 2 (a) as resides on the aircraft
68 used by the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and senior
69 members of the Federal Aviation Administration aircraft and for no other purpose.