

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1713

To amend title 49, United States Code, to terminate the essential air service program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2017

Mr. RUSSELL (for himself, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. McCLINTOCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to terminate the essential air service program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Free Market Flights  
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 417 of  
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
10 end the following:

1 **“§ 41749. Termination of essential air service pro-**  
2 **gram**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Secretary  
4 of Transportation to carry out the essential air service  
5 program under this subchapter shall terminate on October  
6 1, 2017.

7 “(b) USE OF FEES FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years beginning  
9 after September 30, 2017, amounts credited to the  
10 account established under section 45303 from over-  
11 flight fees authorized under section 45301(a)(1) that  
12 would otherwise be made available under section  
13 41742 for obligation and expenditure to carry out  
14 the essential air service program under this sub-  
15 chapter shall be deposited in the general fund of the  
16 Treasury and shall be used for the sole purpose of  
17 deficit reduction.

18 “(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph  
19 (1) shall apply notwithstanding any provision of sec-  
20 tion 45303(c) that directs the amounts described in  
21 paragraph (1) to be made available for expenditure  
22 for activities of the Federal Aviation Administra-  
23 tion.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
25 ter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by

- 1 inserting after the item relating to section 41748 the fol-
- 2 lowing:

“41749. Termination of essential air service program.”

