

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 10, 2016

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

We write to urge you to swiftly approve the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) request to shift \$34 million in TSA's FY 2016 budget so that they can use this funding to hire additional Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) and pay overtime in order to help alleviate the long wait times that travelers have begun to encounter at airports across the country.

This week, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey wrote a letter to TSA reporting that wait times at security checkpoints have increased significantly in recent months at LaGuardia, Kennedy, and Newark Liberty airports, as has also been reported at airports in Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Denver and Seattle, among others. The Port Authority also warned that they may be forced to pursue a contract with a private sector security company if TSA does not provide the increased staffing levels needed to reduce wait times.

As members of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security, we have serious reservations about the prospect of a move towards privatized security at major American airports prompted by inadequate TSA staffing levels. And with more than 220 million passengers expected to fly in July and August alone, we are also deeply concerned that this problem will grow much more severe in the coming months, creating even longer lines and wait times, disrupting travel plans for more and more passengers, and forcing more airports to consider private contracts.

That is why we urge you to approve TSA's request so that they can immediately begin to use this funding to pay overtime and hire additional TSOs.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please contact me at your convenience if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



KATHLEEN M. RICE

Ranking Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

Ranking Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications



WILLIAM R. KEATING

Member of Congress