

AFGE



TSA Screener Workforce Security is Essential to Aviation Security

Cosponsor H.R. 1140 / S. 944

Support Rights for Transportation Security Officers

AFGE urges you to cosponsor H.R. 1140, the Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act and S. 944, the Strengthening American Transportation Security Act.

During the 35-day government shutdown, over 44,000 Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) stood up for aviation security by remaining on the job protecting the flying public without pay. TSOs are driven to protect the U.S. from another act of aviation terrorism. But this workforce committed to their important role in the national security framework is under stress:

- TSOs are not on the General Service pay schedule. The TSA Administrator has sweeping power to set their pay and has established a separate but unequal pay system under which they start low and can never get ahead.
- TSOs do not have the basic employee rights Congress granted most of the federal workforce under Title 5, Chapter 71 of the U.S. Code. TSOs cannot appeal adverse actions to an objective body even though TSA managers, cargo inspectors and administrative personnel are able to do so.
- The shutdown worsened financial distress because of low TSO pay. Many TSOs worked second jobs and had longer commutes when they could no longer pay for gas and parking and took public transportation even for graveyard shifts.
- Women TSOs work more late and early shifts because they make up a smaller portion of the workforce and must be available for screening female passengers at all times.
- TSOs discovered 4,239 firearms in carry-on bags at checkpoints in 2018, of which 86% were loaded; a 7% increase over the previous year.

H.R. 1140, the Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act and S. 944, the Strengthening American Transportation Security Act protect federal workers who protect pilots, flight attendants and the flying public.

The legislation:

1. Repeals the TSA Administrator's authority to create a separate and unequal personnel system applying only to the TSO workforce.
2. Ends current TSA personnel directives that allow TSA to be the judge, jury, and executioner for the TSO workforce.
3. Requires TSA to follow the statutes that provide workplace rights and protections to most federal government employees under Title 5 of the U.S. Code.

SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE ON THE FRONT LINES OF AVIATION SECURITY

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

