

AFGE



TSA Screener Workforce Security is Essential to Aviation Security

Cosponsor H.R. 1140 / S. 944

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

Every day over 44,000 Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) stand up for aviation security to protect the flying public. 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 – pay low-stay low.
- 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.
- 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.



"We believe these worker rights are integral to maintaining a strong, engaged workforce for aviation security. Safety and security doesn't just happen; it happens because we all work together to make it happen."

Sara Nelson, President, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO

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

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

