

AFGE



TSA Screener Workforce Security is Essential to Aviation Security

Cosponsor H.R. 903/S.1856

AFGE urges you to cosponsor H.R. 903/S. 1856, the Rights for the Transportation Security Administration Workforce Act of 2021.

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. This workforce is deeply committed to their important role in the national security framework, but they are under great stress:

- TSOs are not on the General Service pay. 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 3,257 firearms in carry-on bags at checkpoints in 2020, of which 83% were loaded – the highest rate of firearms detection in TSA's 19-year history.
- TSOs work on the front lines, risking their health and safety and that of their families. Over 6,500 in the TSA workforce, mostly screeners, have contracted COVID-19.

"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

H.R. 903/S. 1856:

1. Repeals the TSA Administrator's authority to create a separate and unequal personnel system applying only to the TSO workforce, and places TSOs on the GS pay scale.
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

