

(DATE)

The Honorable Edmund “Kip” Hawley
Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
601 S. 12th Street
Arlington, VA 22202-4220

Dear Assistant Secretary Hawley:

I am writing to express my concern for the inefficiencies that exist within the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for airport employees seeking to obtain proper identification and clearance for access to a secure area of an airport. Currently, no standardized process exists for the screening and approval of airport employees. Each airport authority is permitted to design and implement its own procedures for approving employees, with no required coordination between airports.

As you are well aware, many airline services providers service commercial airline aircraft at a large number of airports across the country. The lack of standardization between airports for issuing secure credentials continues to increase the administrative costs for these service providers to hire and train new employees. These costs come in a variety of forms, from the direct costs in submitting information for Criminal History Records Checks to the indirect costs incurred in lost productivity while these employees wait an excessive amount of time for clearance. These rising costs will be further exacerbated as the TSA implements much-needed screening improvements to strengthen the security of airport operating areas.

Furthermore, there is no process in place that allows employees who have approved access at one airport to be allowed to access secure areas at another airport. In many cases, the senior management of airlines services providers is required to endure a burdensome process when visiting individual facilities at an airport.

While I agree that additional measures should be taken to increase the security of our nation’s airports both in the terminal and on the tarmac, I respectfully request the TSA to implement a comprehensive, national policy to screen and credential airport employees and expedite the badging process to within seven business days after receipt of the results of a fingerprint-based criminal history records check (CHRC).

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

MEMBER OF CONGRESS