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**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**

**4th District, Virginia**  
**May 18, 2012**

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Administrator John Pistole  
TSA-1  
Transportation Security Administration  
601 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Administrator Pistole,

I am deeply concerned with recent reports that the Transportation Security Administration has issued a shift in policy in which individuals have been hired and put to work in our nation's airports prior to having completed criminal and security threat assessment background checks. This policy shift places individuals who have not been fully vetted into previously secured environments, inherently undermining the integrity of security at impacted airports. Detailed in a memorandum issued by the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the TSA promulgated a shift in policy to allow "the Security Division to issue access for individuals who's CHRC (Criminal History Record Checks) and STA (Security Threat Assessment) data has been submitted for background vetting" but not completed.

In light of this order being given in spite of the inherent security risk of allowing unsecured and un-vetted individuals into the previously secure areas of our nation's busiest airport, I respectfully request your assistance in answering the following questions:

- From where in current U.S. law has the TSA determined it has the legal authority to waive the requirement of a completed background security check process prior to a potential employee beginning work?
- How long has this policy of permitting employees, who have not been fully vetted through a completed background check process, to begin working in secured environments been in place and does the policy continue?
- How many airports have taken advantage of the TSA's policy to permit un-vetted employees into previously secure areas?
- How many employees have been issued access to secure areas without a fully approved STA and CHRC clearance? Of the employees who have been issued access, how many have later had that access revoked once the clearance process has been completed?

- What types of positions have been filled by employees without an entirely complete CHRC and STA clearance?
- Lastly, is this policy of addressing background check backlogs by waiving the initial background check requirement a historical standard operating procedure for the Transportation Security Administration?

I appreciate your assistance in answering these questions. The millions of Americans who fly each year place their well-being in the hands of the TSA. It is this responsibility that seems inherently undermined by the TSA's decision to cut corners in the process designed to ensure that airport employees do not themselves, pose a security or criminal threat to other airport employees, TSA employees, and travelers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Randy Forbes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

J. Randy Forbes  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS