



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Hearing Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)**

***One Year Later: Implementation of the TSA Modernization Act***

**October 29, 2019**

A year after enactment, it seems appropriate to look closely at the Transportation Security Administration's implementation of the TSA reauthorization legislation. The TSA Modernization Act included important provisions that this Committee championed, including many Democratic priorities that were included although we were in the minority when the bill passed. Among them was my bill, the TSA OPEN for Business Act, which will improve the agency's partnership with small businesses, ensure procurement activities are open to all, and diversify the marketplace.

Also included was my Air Cargo Security Improvement Act, which will evolve TSA's cargo security efforts by reestablishing a dedicated cargo security office, directing reviews of cargo security programs, and requiring a pilot of new cargo screening technologies. Another key provision was the requirement for TSA to convene a working group with labor representatives to work on reforms to TSA's personnel management system, since Transportation Security Officers do not receive the same basic workplace rights and protections afforded to most other Federal employees. The Act also highlights surface transportation security as a significant area of focus, directing a study of new technologies and a survey of transit agencies' operational needs. I thank TSA for its efforts to implement the agency's first-ever reauthorization, a complex law with a large number of provisions. I appreciate TSA's commitment to transparency and providing this Committee regular updates.

However, although on paper TSA estimates nearly 60 percent of requirements are completed, many of those counted are provisions that codified existing activities, and many others were relatively minor. When it comes to some of the key provisions and priorities of this Committee, there is much work left to do. Important reports and notifications are late—including on each of the critical topics I've described. I look forward to hearing from TSA how they plan to meet their responsibilities under the law.

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