



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2020

The Honorable David Pecoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6001

Dear Administrator Pecoske,

We write today to urge you to use your authority as Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to provide a full cost share of health care insurance premiums to part-time Transportation Security Officers (TSOs). In the midst of the coronavirus crisis, it is imperative that our front-line officers are able to access affordable health care to stop the spread of this disease to the traveling public and others in busy airport settings.

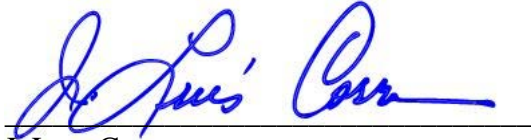
TSOs at our local airports and across the country have tested positive for COVID-19 at alarming rates, including 57 TSOs at 23 airports in the past 14 days. These workers are in regular, close contact with travelers throughout the passenger screening process, putting them at higher risk of exposure to the virus. Despite the nature of their work and the growing number of affected employees, you stated at a March 11, 2020, House Homeland Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing that you have “no intention of restoring health care coverage for part-time workers” and that you believe refusing to do so is “a good decision.”

While we appreciate the changes TSA has made thus far to screening protocols and paid leave for workers, we believe the Administration must go further. Employees who contract the novel coronavirus but pay high health care premiums may forego testing or treatment, potentially spreading the virus further and unnecessarily perpetuating the current public health crisis. As the leader of the Transportation Security Administration, you can make an enormous difference in protecting the health of the TSA workforce by extending full health care benefits to all your workers, regardless of their full- or part-time status.

As confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus sadly continue to rise, now is the time for TSA to re-evaluate its position on affording full health benefits to part-time employees. We ask that you make a clear commitment to your workforce that you will stand with them by providing them with affordable, high-quality health care benefits immediately, along with a temporary open season to enroll in appropriate health care plans based on those changes. Refusing to do so only stands to further endanger the health of your officers and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



J. LUIS CORREA

Chairman

Subcommittee on Transportation and
Maritime Security



DINA TITUS

Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER

Member of Congress



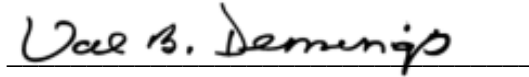
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

Member of Congress



NANNETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

Member of Congress



VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

Member of Congress