



## **COSPONSOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICER TITLE 5 RIGHTS BILL**

Since 2001, the Transportation Security Administration has denied 45,000 Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) the same workplace rights and protections as other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employees under Title 5 of the U.S. Code. The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO calls for support of a bill introduced by Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, that improves the stability of the TSO workforce and its ability to provide aviation security by granting all TSA employees rights under Title 5.

TSOs serve on the frontlines of aviation security to prevent aviation terrorism. They deserve the same labor rights as other workers at DHS.

## **SUPPORT TITLE 5 RIGHTS FOR TSOs**

The bill repeals the statutory footnote included in the Aviation and Security Transportation Security Act that gave the TSA Administrator the unprecedented authority to determine the terms and conditions of employment for 45,000 TSOs, including the ability to decide which labor protection and workplace rights laws apply to the workforce. TSA has not implemented the fundamentally fair and productive workplace policies that are proven to have a positive impact on the working conditions of other DHS employees.

Title 5 rights would extend these common sense workplace protections to TSOs:

- The Family and Medical Leave Act;
- The Federal Labor Standards Act;
- Employment discrimination protections, including application of the Rehabilitation Act;
- Access to the Merit Systems Protection Board to appeal adverse personnel actions;
- Fair shift and annual leave bid procedures;
- Fair pay under the General Schedule of wages; and
- Full collective bargaining rights.

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