BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN

JOHN KATKO, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

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

December 22, 2022

The Honorable David Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
6595 Springfield Center Dr.
Springfield, VA 22150

Dear Adminstrator Pekoske:

We write to request that you immediately require all passengers, including registered traveler program participants, to go through the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) identity verification processes carried out by TSA employees and technologies prior to entering TSA checkpoints for security screening.

As you are aware, TSA recently notified the Committee of security vulnerabilities related to identity verification processes for participants in the registered traveler program as operated by CLEAR. The best way to address those sensitive vulnerabilities adequately and ensure the accurate vetting of passengers against terrorist watchlists is to require every passenger to go through TSA-specific identity verification.

In addition to immediately imposing such a requirement, we request that you respond in writing to the following questions by January 12, 2023:

1. How did TSA develop the identity verification requirements for registered traveler program participants? Has TSA ever reviewed CLEAR's internal policies for identity verification to ensure passengers utilizing the registered traveler program are correctly identified prior to entering the security screening checkpoint?

2. How does TSA conduct oversight of registered traveler program enrollment processes and other operations?

3. What was the basis for TSA's decision, upon discovery of security vulnerabilities in the registered traveler program, to allow for less than 100 percent of all passengers to go through TSA identity verification?

4. How will the discovery of security vulnerabilities related to CLEAR's operation of the registered traveler program affect TSA's plans to allow CLEAR to operate as a TSA PreCheck program enrollment provider?

5. What specific steps will TSA take immediately, and going forward, to ensure all passengers are adequately identified and vetted prior to flying?

6. Are TSA's checkpoint technologies and processes better able to mitigate identification and vetting vulnerabilities compared to those used by the registered traveler vendor? If so, please explain how.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman

JOHN M. KATKO
Ranking Member