



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to express great concern about recent proposals to issue firearms and grant arrest authority to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners to carry out what have always been understood to be law enforcement duties.

NAPO represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers nationwide. In particular, NAPO represents officers who have and carry out traditional law enforcement functions in most major airport jurisdictions nationwide, including but not limited to, JFK, LaGuardia, Newark Liberty, Chicago O'Hare, Miami International, Los Angeles International, Boston Logan, Phoenix Sky Harbor, Las Vegas McCarran, Detroit, St. Louis, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas and Portland.

Based on the collective hundreds of years of experience safeguarding public safety at these locations, we can say without hesitation that sworn and trained police officers, accountable to their own local public jurisdictions, should continue to be utilized for all law enforcement tasks. Armed responses should remain the duty of state and local law enforcement officers who already possess the appropriate training, experience and equipment. Creating a new class of TSA screeners to carry out law enforcement duties would be an extremely expensive undertaking that diverts agents from their primary task of screening passengers. Overlapping law enforcement and TSA duties will inevitably jeopardize public safety.

We very much appreciate your consideration. I will reach out to your staff in the next week to seek a meeting to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director