



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515
December 9, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the conclusions and findings reached as a result of our September 16, 2011 Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management hearing, "Ten Years After 9/11: Assessing Airport Security and Preventing a Future Terrorist Attack." We urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to strongly consider adopting the Screening Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program nationwide, and continue to closely examine and assess perimeter security at all aviation sites throughout the United States.

The Subcommittee recognized DHS efforts over the last ten years to develop systems to secure aviation transportation and prevent terrorist attacks. Our hearing focused specifically on evaluating how the perimeter and behavior detection systems developed, and observed the operation of the system at Boston Logan International Airport.

Behavior detection programs assist screeners to identify high-risk passengers through a unique screening process. The Boston Logan International Airport 60 day pilot behavior detection program proved useful in determining the need for such a program at other major airports. The hearing also underscored the importance of perimeter security. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reported thousands of perimeter security breaches over the last six years, including recent deaths and arrests of stowaway passengers. Thus, technologies and techniques to prevent perimeter breaches are essential and we should continue to examine unique methods which are effective and reduce costs.

Our staff point of contact is Dr. R. Nicholas Palarino, Subcommittee Staff Director for Oversight, Investigations, and Management. He can be reached at (202) 226-8417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael McCaul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations and Management