



Chairman John Carter

*Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations*

Transportation Security Administration: FY 2017 Budget Request

March 2, 2016

Opening Statement As Prepared

Hearing is called to order –

This afternoon we welcome Administrator Peter Neffenger to testify on the Transportation Security Administration's fiscal year 2017 budget request. Administrator, thank you for being here today.

The FY17 budget for TSA is \$7.6 billion, which is \$149 million above FY16. This year's budget is a significant departure from previous years, which were marked by reductions in screening personnel and other efficiencies achieved through TSA's risk-based security initiatives.

This Committee has long supported risk-based approaches to transportation security, but has emphasized the need for these programs to be grounded in improving security above all.

The FY17 budget request continues initiatives funded in FY16 to strengthen passenger screening operations, equipment, training, and intelligence and vetting programs, in response to the disturbing results from the OIG's covert testing last year. I look forward to hearing from you on the progress TSA has made so far, and how the FY17 budget continues to support these efforts.

I'd also like to understand how TSA is continuing to invest in risk-based security efforts that will ensure we are focusing our resources on the highest risk passengers.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to convey my disappointment that the Administration has yet again resorted to budget gimmicks, assuming unauthorized fees as an offset for TSA's appropriations. This has created a huge hole in TSA's budget – to the tune of \$908.8 million – that Congress now has to deal with.

Now I'd like to recognize our distinguished Ranking Member for any remarks she wishes to make.

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