



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable David Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6001

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

We are urgently reaching out regarding reports of unsafe working conditions for TSA employees at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Frontline TSA employees have bravely continued to report for duty during this pandemic. It is only right that every possible step is taken to ensure the safety and security of these employees throughout the duration of this crisis. The rapidly rising number of COVID-19 cases amongst the TSA's workforce only increases our concern for those who report to work every day despite the inherent risks involved. While the rapid spread of the virus has made it difficult to counter, it is clear that the TSA's efforts to protect its employees at DTW have been insufficient to date.

As you know, a DTW TSA employee tested positive for COVID-19 on or before the 23rd of March. We are extremely concerned by reports that only three employees of DTW TSA were told to self-isolate and placed on administrative leave, when in most cases trace testing for COVID-19 means approximately 40 to 70 people are required to self-isolate.

From the beginning of this crisis, TSA workers at DTW have reported being denied access to masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). We have repeatedly inquired about this issue and have urged that workers who request masks be granted them. While the official response from DTW TSA management has been that any worker who requests a mask can have one, some reports suggest that employees are being sent home instead of being provided with masks.

There have also been reports that some TSA workers have been asked to notify management of any underlying health conditions or concerns. If true, these reports are very concerning,

especially because health status must not be used against any workers during and/or after the crisis.

We must make sure that every possible effort is being taken to ensure that DTW TSA employees are kept safe during this crisis. Therefore, we urge you to investigate allegations of unsafe working conditions for TSA employees at DTW and take immediate steps to safeguard their health and wellbeing. In addition, we respectfully request clarification on the following issues:

1. What are TSA's guidelines for protecting frontline employees – such as Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) and Federal Air Marshals (FAMs) – during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What actions are being taken by TSA to protect employees with underlying health conditions or concerns from COVID-19?
3. What are the TSA's procedures once it has been notified that a member of its workforce has tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Does TSA have N95 masks in storage? If so, does TSA have any plans to distribute these masks to frontline employees or otherwise utilize them to fight the pandemic? Specifically, what is the status of PPE supplies available to DTW TSA?
5. Does TSA plan to submit a request for hazard pay for its employees to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)?

Thank you for your prompt attention to these critical issues at DTW. We look forward to your response and working with you in the future to ensure that all TSA employees are adequately protected during this crisis.

Sincerely,



RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress