



Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

March 31, 2021

via email

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Re: AFGE Request to Meet and Discuss the Administrative Implementation of Title 5 Rights for Transportation Security Officers

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the exclusive bargaining representative for more than 40,000 Transportation Security Officers (“TSOs”) across this country, we would like to thank you for the recent comments you have made in support of Title 5 rights for TSOs. It is clear to us that TSOs deserve the same bargaining rights, fairness in pay, and other benefits that are enjoyed by federal employees covered under Title 5. To hear you echo that sentiment in recent town halls and congressional hearings makes us optimistic that we are about to turn the corner in this campaign for TSO rights.

Although our ultimate goal is still to guarantee Title 5 rights for TSOs through legislation, we are particularly encouraged by support you voiced for administratively adopting Title 5 equivalent rights for TSOs until a statutory solution is put in place. This practical approach is already within the Transportation Security Administration’s (“TSA’s”) existing authority under the Aviation and Transportation Security Act and would immediately begin to improve morale at TSA by giving TSOs a new sense of fairness and transparency in the workplace.

To that end, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the specifics of this administrative solution. While we have already provided a draft “Determination” to demonstrate how such an administrative approach could be implemented, please let us know if there is anything else we can provide that would help you in anticipation of our meeting. We are available to discuss this at your convenience, and we look forward to working with you to make Title 5 rights for TSOs a reality.

Respectfully,

Hydrick Thomas
AFGE Council 100 President

Dr. Everett Kelley
AFGE National President

