



**Transportation
Security
Administration**

The Honorable John Warner
United States Senator
1003 First Union Bank Building
213 South Jefferson Street
Roanoke, VA 24011-1714

AUG 02 2007

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter of July 2, 2007, written on behalf of your constituent Mr. Christopher Soghoian, regarding his questions about Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) security procedures at passenger screening checkpoints. These procedures are part of a multi-layered security system designed to detect and mitigate threats to aviation security.

First, Mr. Soghoian asks whether TSA may require a passenger to produce a form of identification (ID), such as a Federal- or State-government-issued ID, in order to fly domestically. TSA has statutory authority to establish such a requirement. To date, TSA has not implemented this authority. Under current TSA regulations and procedures, ID is requested from passengers prior to entering a screening checkpoint, and passengers who do not present a valid ID are subject to additional security screening.

Second, Mr. Soghoian asks whether passengers can be stopped from flying domestically if they are unable or unwilling to produce an ID. As stated above, TSA has authority to establish such a prohibition, but has not done so to date.

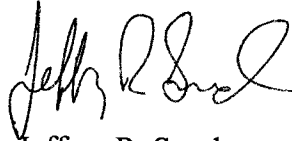
Third, Mr. Soghoian asks whether a passenger may fly domestically without showing an ID to TSA if the passenger elects to go through secondary screening. As stated above, passengers who do not show a valid ID prior to entering a screening checkpoint may pass through the screening checkpoint if they undergo additional, or secondary, screening procedures.

Fourth, Mr. Soghoian asks whether TSA's receipt of his ID information from an airport law enforcement officer violates the Privacy Act if Mr. Soghoian objects to the law enforcement officer providing that information to TSA. TSA's receipt of this information is within its authority and does not violate the Privacy Act.

Fifth, Mr. Soghoian asks whether a passenger has the right to refuse to submit to screening by an explosives trace portal (ETP), also called a "puffer machine," if the passenger agrees to submit to other types of screening, such as a patdown. A passenger does not have a right to choose the type of screening method that will be applied, absent special circumstances such as a medical need. A passenger who refuses to complete the screening process in accordance with the procedure being applied at a particular checkpoint, such as the use of an ETP, may be denied the ability to fly domestically.

We appreciate that Mr. Soghoian took the time to share his concerns with you and thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. If we may be of further assistance, please call the Office of Legislative Affairs at (571) 227-2717.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Sural". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

Jeffrey R. Sural
Assistant Administrator
for Legislative Affairs