

NTEU TSA UPDATE

News and Information for TSA Employees from NTEU

April 2, 2009

Breaking News!

Collective Bargaining Rights Bill Introduced

NTEU's work with the House Homeland Security Committee paid dividends today when an important bill to end PASS and provide you with full collective bargaining rights was introduced in the House of Representatives.



With NTEU National President Colleen M. Kelley (center), TSAOs met with Mississippi Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (second from left), chairman of the powerful House Committee on Homeland Security.

President Colleen M. Kelley applauded the legislation as a key step toward improving TSA, a vital, yet troubled, agency.

"Providing collective bargaining rights by statute would allow TSA employees to bring a united voice into the workplace and to have an avenue to share their thoughts and ideas on ways to strengthen and improve a number of workplace policies and practices," Kelley said.

Eliminating TSA's unfair PASS and moving TSAOs onto the General Schedule (GS), like many other federal employees, would put in place workplace policies that are fair, transparent and understood by everyone and result in a substantial morale boost agencywide.

Not only are civil service protections for TSAOs a priority issue for NTEU, it also is a key component of NTEU's comprehensive five-point plan for the TSA workforce—a concrete set of goals that will ensure stability of the agency nationwide.

The plan not only calls for collective bargaining rights and an end to PASS, it also calls for full whistleblower protections by statute; a fair shift-scheduling system and adequate staffing; and revisions to the current TSA training and recertification system.

[Read more about NTEU's fight for collective bargaining rights at TSA here.](#)

[Read the lawmakers' release.](#)

"This legislation will open the door to a huge opportunity to make TSA the best-run airport security agency in the world."

Colleen M. Kelley, NTEU

Here's How NTEU Did It

- For months, NTEU worked closely with House Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas) to craft this critical legislation.
- In February, President Kelley attended a meeting with the three lawmakers to discuss the urgent need for civil service protections in the TSA workforce. She did the same in a meeting last month with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Secretary Napolitano has ordered a review of the question of her authority to grant collective bargaining rights to TSA employees—a right NTEU believes she has and can delegate.
- NTEU repeated this urgent call on behalf of TSOs nationwide during testimony last month before a hearing of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight.
- The union continues to work with the Obama administration to secure collective bargaining rights through executive action.

[Visit NTEU's TSA home page to learn more.](#)

**NTEU is ready and willing to help.
If you have questions, call toll free
1-866-591-5735 or e-mail TSA@nteu.org.**

***Please spread the word about
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It's free and keeps TSOs informed about important issues.

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NTEU's Mission: To organize federal employees to work together to ensure that every federal employee is treated with dignity and respect.

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