

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Mark Meadows
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Meadows:

As Members of Congress who strongly support the Trump Administration's robust response to the monumental health and economic crises created by COVID-19, we write to ask for your leadership on an additional measure that will mitigate spread of the virus while also helping to restore our economy. This important layer would be aviation passenger temperature screenings, performed on a temporary basis, by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

In light of the terrible impact that this invisible enemy has had on our great nation, it is integral that our economy continues to have the Administration's full support in safely reopening. Before the pandemic, commercial aviation drove 5% of U.S. GDP and helped to support 10.4 million U.S. jobs – and it remains an industry with an outsized ability to sustain a much-needed recovery. A strong domestic commercial aviation system that moves people and cargo efficiently across our country is needed to support the scores of other industries which depend on these services to create jobs and drive our economy.

Having TSA temporarily screen passengers for elevated temperatures, while ensuring that travelers with unrelated medical issues causing elevated temperatures can still travel, has a number of practical advantages. First, it ensures that regardless of where a passenger travels or on which air carrier, they experience a consistent nationwide process that identifies passengers with elevated temperatures while also creating a disincentive for those who know they may be sick from attempting to travel. Second, it provides an additional layer of protection, which combined with the enhanced sanitation policies being implemented by airlines and at airports, increases the health safety of air travel – and travelers' confidence in returning to the skies.

Finally, adding temporary temperature screening to TSA's toolkit will also ensure their preparedness for any future health pandemics that threaten American lives and prosperity. If implementing this small, commonsense measure today helps to protect us from a future contagion that takes thousands of American lives, decimates millions of American jobs and necessitates trillions of dollars of federal investment to relieve its impact on our nation, then there are few identifiable measures today that could be more important for safeguarding our future.

We appreciate your steadfast leadership and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
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Michael Cloud
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Denver Riggleman
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Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress