

United States Senate

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable David P. Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Administrator Pekoske,

I write in response to today's announcement that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will no longer consider gender when validating the identity of individuals at checkpoints and will allow TSA PreCheck applicants to choose an "alternative gender category" on their application. I have serious concerns that this change was made without regard to the potential impact this could have on security.

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the federal government has made significant progress in securing domestic air travel. Whether through the creation of TSA or improved screening practices, the federal government has taken significant steps in regard to securing air travel and protecting American citizens. Now, it appears that the current administration has shifted its focus to advancing "wokeness" at the expense of security.

On its face, this announced change appears to be nothing more than an effort to make a political point. With that said, I request an answer to the following:

1. Do these decisions make the U.S. more secure?
2. When, prior to the public announcement, was the decision made to implement these policies?
3. Were U.S. security officials consulted during the process that led to this change?

I look forward to a timely response to these questions.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator