NDD UNITED OPPOSES PLANS TO STOP SECURITY SCREENINGS AT AIRPORTS NATIONWIDE

Contact: Benjamin Corb
Voice: 240.283.6625
E-mail: bcorb@asbmb.org

Washington, DC – In response to reported plans to reduce Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screening procedures at smaller airports, NDD United, an alliance of more than 2,000 national, state, and local organizations, Co-chair Benjamin Corb issued the following statement:

"Any proposals to shrink or otherwise cut vital security screening capabilities at the nation's airports should be soundly rejected in the interest of ensuring the safety and security of the American flying public.

If media reports are accurate, the Transportation Security Administration is considering a rule change which would allow thousands of travelers to forgo baggage and personal checks from smaller airports until they reach a larger airport for security clearance. The consideration of a change like this is just another example of the self-inflicted damage to the safety, security, and well-being of Americans that comes from foolish fiscal policies. The rule change would free up $115 million in funds to be used to improve security at larger, busier airports.

As demonstrated in our recent report, Faces of Austerity 2.0: How Budget Cuts Continue to Make Us Sicker, Poorer, and Less Secure, additional investments are sorely needed for core functions of government that Americans rely on and benefit from every day—veterans’ services, education and job training, public health and safety, science, law enforcement, housing, natural resources, and more.

While fiscal year 2019 spending caps are set, non-defense discretionary spending is facing a $55 billion shortfall when the current budget agreement expires in FY2020. Congress and the President must work now to eliminate, or raise discretionary spending caps so that important government services like airport security can be adequately supported."

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NDD United is an alliance of thousands of national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions that benefit all Americans