

TRAVELING PARENTS SCREENING CONSISTENCY ACT
OF 2019

AUGUST 27, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, from the Committee on Homeland
Security, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3246]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3246) to require GAO review of certain TSA screening protocols, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The purpose of H.R. 3246, “Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act of 2019,” is to require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review certain Transportation Security Administra-

tion (TSA) screening protocols and for other purposes. This bill requires GAO to conduct a review of TSA's implementation of the "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act" (Public Law 114–293), as well as TSA's effectiveness in ensuring protocol clarity and consistency relating to the screening of formula, breast milk, purified deionized water for infants, and juice. Lastly, the bill requires GAO to issue recommendations for improving TSA's overall screening practices for such items.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

TSA is charged with protecting passengers and implement security measures to protect against terrorist threats. To carry out its mission, TSA conducts airport checkpoint screening of breast milk, baby formula, juice, and other childcare products at security checkpoints. In response to passenger reports of inconsistencies in such screening, Congress enacted the "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act" in 2016. However, parents traveling with breast milk, baby formula, and nursing products continue to report that receiving consistent treatment from TSA when going through such screening remains an issue.

This bill seeks to address these concerns by requiring GAO to review TSA's implementation of the "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act" as well as TSA's effectiveness in ensuring screening protocol clarity and screening consistency relating to the screening of certain childcare products.

HEARINGS

For the purpose of section 103(i) of H. Res 6. of the 116th Congress the following related hearing was held:

A subcommittee hearing on February 27, 2018, entitled, "The Public Face of TSA: Examining the Agency's Outreach and Traveler Engagement Efforts," at which TSA screening protocols, complaint processes, and communications were discussed.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee met on July 17, 2019, with a quorum being present, to consider H.R. 3246 and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, without amendment, by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

No recorded votes were requested during consideration of H.R. 3246.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX
EXPENDITURES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and with respect to requirements of clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, The Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 7, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3246 the Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act of 2019.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Madeleine Fox.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 3246, Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act of 2019			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on July 17, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	*
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3246 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the Transportation Security Administration's implementation of the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act. Using information about the cost of other GAO studies, CBO estimates that the review would cost less than \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Madeleine Fox. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 3246 does not contain any provision that establishes or reauthorizes a program known to be duplicative of another Federal program.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H.R. 3246 seeks to ensure that GAO conducts a review to assess TSA's implementation of Public Law 114–293 as well as TSA's effectiveness in ensuring the clarity and consistency of certain screening protocols.

ADVISORY ON EARMARKS

In compliance with rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of the rule XXI.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that this bill may be cited as the “Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act of 2019”

Sec 2. Comptroller general review

This section requires the GAO to review TSA's implementation of the “Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act” as well as the effectiveness of TSA in ensuring protocol clarity and screening consistency related to the screening of formula, breast milk, purified deionized water for infants, and juice. This review will include examining the effectiveness of TSA's ability to ensure consistency of screening for protocols related to such items, including the extent to which TSA officers engage in screening beyond what is prescribed through relevant policies and training.

Additionally, this section requires GAO to evaluate several aspects of TSA's activities, including the need for TSA to update and revise procedures for screening; its tracking of passenger complaints related to screening inconsistencies; its communications and information sharing practices for stakeholders relating to relevant protocols; and its policies regarding the screening of passengers with nursing products, including the extent to which such passengers are more likely to receive secondary screening.