Protect Passengers in Federally Funded Transportation!

the transportation alliance

Congress Should Require Fingerprinting & Drug Testing of Drivers in Federally Funded Contract Services – Safety First

Background: The U.S. government can save considerable amounts of money by contracting transportation services out to third parties, saving on insurance, fuel and maintenance costs. In order for a program like this to be successful for industry and the federal government, the first priority must always be safety.

More than 80 programs across the federal government are authorized to fund transportation services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, persons with lower incomes, and others who require alternatives to traditional public transportation service. Funding agencies include the departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services, Education, and Veterans Affairs. Much of the service is competitively bid to private sector transportation companies, such as taxicab, Transportation Network Companies, sedan, paratransit and nonemergency medical transportation companies. In fact, the GSA is planning to issue one such request for proposals from companies to provide transportation for federal workers, a contract valued at $162 million per year. It is imperative any transportation provider chosen in that process take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of federal workers.

It is time to enact a federal requirement that drivers providing contracted, third-party passenger transportation service funded by the federal government pass a national, fingerprint-based criminal background check that uses the FBI's database, as well as a drug and alcohol test.

Agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services require background and drug testing of their contractors, as does the Department of Defense for contractors who deliver goods to military installations all across the country.

THE FACTS:

- Keeping government employees and the public safe should be priority number one.

- There are more than 80 programs funding transportation across the country.

- Some agencies already require fingerprinting and drug and alcohol tests for drivers of these programs.

- Fingerprint-based background checks using the FBI's database are considered the gold standard by public safety and law enforcement. officials.

The federal government can lead the nation on passenger safety by requiring private sector drivers providing contracted transportation services to submit to a biometric-based criminal history records check that uses the FBI's database before driving government employees or members of the public. All contracted drivers should also submit to drug and alcohol testing.

Request: The Transportation Alliance urges Congress to pass legislation requiring anyone awarded a grant or contract to provide for-hire transportation services, which is paid for in whole or in part with federal funds, to pass both a fingerprint-based background check and a drug and alcohol test.

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