Shuster Calls for House Oversight Hearings on Invasive TSA Screening Methods

Washington, DC – **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined his Pennsylvania Republican colleague, Tim Murphy and Rep. Bob Filner of California in calling for immediate oversight hearings on the Transportation Security Administration's use of invasive screening procedures at America's airports.

"Each day brings new horror stories from airline pilots and passengers who have undergone screening by a full body scan, or an extensive and aggressive pat-down by TSA employees," Shuster said. "The number of these reports and the claims they make against advanced screening procedures is troubling and requires attention by Congress."

In a joint letter to Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson, Shuster and his colleagues call for the committee to immediately conduct oversight hearings to investigate claims of Constitutional violations by the TSA and to look for ways to repair the broken trust between the TSA and the American public.

"We need to secure our airlines from terrorist attack, but in the process, we shouldn't trample the very rights and freedoms we are trying to protect from our enemy," Shuster added. "As we begin the busy holiday travel season, we need to investigate whether the screening procedures being used by the TSA actually work and if more can be done to protect the dignity of airline passengers."

It is important to note that the on June 4, 2009, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (H.Amdt. 172 to H.R. 2200, vote: 310-118) to prohibit the TSA from implementing full body scanners as the primary screening method at airports.

"It is my hope that the Homeland Security Committee will act quickly to seriously address the concerns raised by my colleagues and a growing segment of the American traveling public," Shuster concluded.

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