

FEB 21 2014

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598



Transportation
Security
Administration

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Attention: Mr. Jon Moore
505 Marquette Avenue, NW, Suite 1605
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Congresswoman Grisham:

This is in further response to your letter of January 6, 2014, written on behalf of your constituent, Mr. (b)(6) regarding the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program.

SPOT is one aspect of TSA's Behavior Detection and Analysis (BDA) program. The BDA program uses non-invasive behavior detection techniques based on scientifically validated behaviors to identify individuals who potentially pose a threat to the Nation's transportation network. Behavior detection techniques have been an accepted practice for many years within the law enforcement, customs and border enforcement, defense, and security communities both in the United States and internationally.

TSA has completed extensive studies in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the academic community to examine the validity of the BDA program. An S&T validation study in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) completed in 2011 represents the most thorough and rigorous analysis of a behavioral screening program completed to date. Notably, the validation study found that TSA's behavior detection identifies high-risk travelers at a significantly higher rate than random screening.

In your letter, you mentioned the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report concerning TSA's BDA program. While TSA appreciates GAO's recommendations, which have led to significant improvements in program management and deployment, we feel the report did not adequately recognize all of the available research on behavior detection.

As you requested, a representative of TSA's Office of Civil Rights and Liberties, Ombudsman and Traveler Engagement's (CRL/OTE) Multicultural Branch contacted Mr. (b)(6) on February 12, 2014. Mr. (b)(6) was provided information on how to file a complaint with CRL/OTE. The CRL/OTE representative also provided his contact information in case Mr. (b)(6) has difficulty with the process. For more information on the complaint handling process, Mr. (b)(6) should visit <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/travelers-filing-complaint>.

We appreciate that Mr. (b)(6) took the time to share his concerns with you and hope this information is helpful. If we may be of further assistance, please call the Office of Legislative Affairs at (571) 227-2717.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Dietch".

Sarah Dietch
Assistant Administrator
for Legislative Affairs