

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2016

Administrator Peter Neffenger
Transportation Security Administration Headquarters
East Tower, Floor 11, TSA-5
601 South Twelfth Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6001

Administrator Neffenger:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Maternity Care, we would like to follow up on an important issue that directly relates to the duties of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, under TSA's Special Procedures for traveling with children, travelers are explicitly permitted to bring formula and breast milk in quantities greater than 3.4 ounces in carry-on baggage on board an aircraft (3-1-1 Liquids Rule Exemption). Under this exemption, travelers may also carry on ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to prevent formula and breast milk from spoiling. Additionally, travelers are not required to fit these liquids and cooling accessories within a quart-sized bag. While we are pleased that TSA has put this protection in place for mothers and caretakers, we have been notified of several instances where TSA has not properly followed this policy. In several cases, individuals were forced to dispose of breast milk, cooling accessories, or both in order to board their flights.

These reports demonstrate a problem with implementation of the 3-1-1 Liquids Rule Exemption travel policy in TSA's airports and among airline and security officials. For the well-being of these infants and children passengers, it is important that there is full compliance with the existing liquids exemption. Particularly on long flights, caretakers and parents depend on security agents to properly allow these vital forms of nutrition through security checkpoints and on board aircrafts.

We appreciate the attention you have shown toward our shared concern and the work you are doing to ensure compliance with the exemption. We ask that you keep us informed of progress on this issue that is of great importance to families in our districts and across the nation.

Sincerely,


Jaime Herrera Beutler

Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard

Member of Congress