

# **NTEU**

**The National Treasury Employees Union**

May 21, 2009

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter  
Chairwoman, Committee on Rules  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

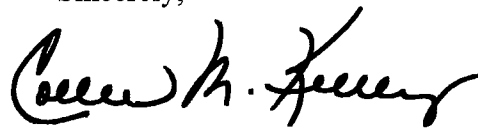
Dear Chairwoman Slaughter:

As President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), representing over 150,000 federal employees, including personnel at the front lines in our war on terror, I am writing to you in support of an amendment offered by Representative Stephen Lynch to HR 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act. This amendment, Amendment # 2, would provide that any Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel may voluntarily wear personal protective equipment when there is an emergency.

NTEU has been in many discussions with components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in an attempt to make sure that DHS employees have clear guidelines and are able to protect themselves during emergencies such as the swine flu epidemic. I also testified before Representative Lynch's Federal Workforce Subcommittee on this issue. Unfortunately, no coherent policy has emerged. Although we would like to see Representative Lynch's other amendment, Amendment # 1 be considered, since it deals with the entire DHS, we realize that that amendment is not germane to a bill that authorizes only TSA. Amendment # 2 will at least aid our TSA employees by allowing them to take action to protect themselves and their families when necessary.

I ask the Rules Committee to allow this amendment to be considered when HR 2200 goes to the floor of the House.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Kelley  
National President