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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 22, 2011

The Honorable Rand Paul
208 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

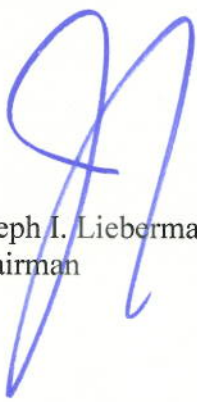
Dear Senator Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a hearing into the security processes for visa recipients and refugee applicants. We share your belief that there must be a robust screening process for potential visa and refugees entering the United States. A hearing has been tentatively set for July 13, with witnesses from both the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State. The hearing will focus on the progress that has been made, as well as the challenges that remain in identifying, preventing, and interdicting terrorist travel. As such, it will examine the security of our visa issuing process for immigrants and non-immigrants, the passenger pre-screening and screening programs that have been implemented to secure international flights bound for the United States, and our watchlisting systems.


In addition, this week your staff and ours received a classified briefing from the National Counterterrorism Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, DHS, and State on these concerns generally and the recent arrests specifically. Our staffs can coordinate any additional briefings you or your staff may need.

We look forward working with you on this important issue as we proceed.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman



Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member