

# NTEU TSA UPDATE

*News and Information for TSA Employees from NTEU*

February 26, 2009

## DHS Secretary Orders Review of TSA Collective Bargaining Rights

NTEU is welcoming news that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano has ordered a review of the question of extending collective bargaining rights to employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

"I look forward to a prompt and favorable decision on this question, and implementation of full collective bargaining rights for these employees who very much need and deserve such rights," said NTEU President Colleen M. Kelley.



DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, pictured above, has asked the DHS general counsel to review whether she has the authority to grant collective bargaining rights to TSA employees.

In response to a question during a hearing of the House Homeland Security Committee yesterday, Secretary Napolitano said she has asked the DHS general counsel to review whether she has the authority to grant collective bargaining rights to TSA employees. NTEU believes the law is clear that the DHS secretary or her designee has the authority and provided this information to the new administration.

As part of its [recommendations](#) to the then-incoming Obama administration, NTEU emphasized the importance of providing TSA employees with collective bargaining rights and moving them to the same pay system most other federal employees are covered under, which would stem the dangerously-high turnover and low morale. ([Read NTEU's five-point representation plan for TSA employees.](#))

"President Obama has indicated his support of collective bargaining rights for TSA employees and I would hope and expect that would happen in the very near future," said Kelley, noting that she looks forward to discussing the issue in more detail with Secretary Napolitano over the next few days.

Under the law establishing the agency, the TSA administrator was given the power to decide whether or not employees should have collective bargaining rights; to date, no TSA administrator has seen fit to allow agency employees to have full collective bargaining rights, although NTEU does represent them for a wide range of purposes.

Collective bargaining will provide TSA employees with a meaningful seat at the table where decisions impacting their day-to-day work lives are made. [Read the complete story and learn more about NTEU at TSA.](#)