

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY

HEARING - 'INTERRUPTING TERRORIST TRAVEL: STRENGTHENING  
THE SECURITY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS'

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR JON KYL

Good morning. I want to thank Senator Feinstein for calling this hearing on interrupting terrorist travel through improvements to international travel documents. I think it's an excellent complement to the hearing that she and I held last September when we focused on how to improve the security of international flights to the United States without unnecessarily disrupting travel for the many millions of people who fly into our country each year.

I want to thank each of the witnesses for taking the time to share their expertise with us. In particular, I want to thank Secretary General Ron Noble of Interpol for joining us. Mr. Noble, our offices have been in contact working to improve security for international travelers, and we look forward to continuing our dialogue with you. I also want to thank Mr. Brian Zimmer for joining us today. Mr. Zimmer, the appendix to your testimony on the federal laws that Congress has passed to improve federal identity documents is a good summary, and I appreciate your putting it together.

The arrival of international terrorism to the shores of the United States has made us all aware of the need for improved security on our borders and at our ports of entry. In a very short period of time, we've had to adopt more sophisticated screening mechanisms, identity documents, and data-sharing among domestic and international law enforcement entities. I think that the testimony we'll hear today shows that we've come a long way. More work remains. Our obligation here in Congress will be to continue to support the Administration's efforts to improve domestic security, pass meaningful legislation that addresses gaps in that security, and provide the funds needed to ensure the safety of Americans here and abroad.