Build on the Readmission Of Airport Nontravelers

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LETTERS

Regarding Bob Greene’s “In Pittsburgh, Go to the Airport Without Getting on a Plane” (op-ed, Oct. 6): The recent change at the Pittsburgh International Airport to allow nonflyers beyond the security checkpoint will place additional pressure on the TSA to accommodate the additional people being screened. This can impact staffing levels and equipment requirements. Given that the airport is underutilized since it was dehubbed by US Airways several years ago, these pressures are likely manageable. However, in airports like Chicago’s O'Hare and Atlanta’s Hartsfield, even adding as little as 10% throughput to the security checkpoints could create significantly longer lines and delays.

Non-flyers could be PreCheck vetted. This would add an incentive for travelers to enroll in the program. Second, it would encourage a more rapid transition of checkpoints from enhanced screening to PreCheck screening, given a growing demand for such screening. From a risk and benefit perspective, anything that can be done to enroll more people into PreCheck will add security value to the air system. Don’t expect a flood of airports to follow suit, given the limited security-footprint space available at most high-volume airports.

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