

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL USA – “Restoring Americans’ Freedom To Travel” (<http://fttusa.org>)

Mission

We represent United States citizens who want to regain freedoms taken away by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). We are fighting against the completely illegal, warrantless strip searches of our citizens, and fighting against the coerced, inappropriate physical touching of bodies, including touching the genitals and breasts. The TSA performs searches using methods that are ILLEGAL for the police to perform unless one is under reasonable suspicion of committing a felony, under arrest or serving a jail sentence.

Goals

Our goals are to restore legal airline passenger security, reinforce our constitutional rights against warrantless, unreasonable searches, and promote dignified procedures for those with medical issues.

Legislation

The elected officials sworn to uphold the United States Constitution should be strongly supportive of the freedoms that make America a great country, and should not be afraid to preserve these constitutional rights as well as common decency for citizens. The **specific legislative goals** for airport security that we support and are asking you to support are:

- ✓ Provide for airline passenger screenings using **long-standing and effective legal means** which existed prior to strip search scanners and sexual assault pat downs, specifically magnetometer (metal detector) screening. We also support effective explosive detection technology, “bomb sniffing” dogs, and cargo screening for passenger flights.
- ✓ **Forbid strip searches** (including searches using body scanners) of U.S. citizens, including children, except that law enforcement officers may perform strip searches under current legal authority and circumstances. This means no scanners.
- ✓ **Forbid physical searches** of U.S. citizens, including children, except that law enforcement officers may perform physical searches under current legal authority and circumstances. This means *no* “TSA patdowns”, which are criminal touching under ANY other circumstance, for primary screening.
- ✓ We are especially **concerned** that U.S. citizens who are in wheelchairs or with ‘medical metal’ – think of metal joint replacements (knee, hip, and surgery metal), artificial limbs, and similar medical issues - are currently profiled 100% of the time by strip search scanners and sexual assault pat downs. We propose a pre-flight clearance procedure be developed that will protect those with medical assistive devices from needing to violate their privacy rights in order to exercise their right to travel.

Important Facts

SECURITY RISK IS NEGLIGIBLE - There is no overwhelmingly grave threat that even begins to justify the new TSA procedures that are focused on suicidal airline passengers bringing working non-metallic bombs on an airplane. In fact, no airline passenger in the US has set off a non-metallic bomb that has killed anyone in half a century – that is 50 years! Internationally, there were two failed attempts (despite 5 years of planning, testing, and refining a working non-metallic bomb) over the last 15 years covering every global plane flight in the entire world!

4TH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS – An “administrative search” must meet 4th amendment requirements, which includes reasonableness. The three major unreasonable issues with the “TSA administrative search” procedures are:

Strip Searches – no matter how convenient an inch-by-inch search of one’s body when performed by scanners, they are not allowed for police officers without prior reasonable, articulable suspicion. One would think that a non-law enforcement agency could not use methods, which are prohibited to police, on people who are not under suspicion, arrest, or in jail.

Sexual Assault Pat Downs – There is absolutely no justification for the government to coercively force one

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to have their genitals, buttocks, and breasts touched by government strangers. If anyone did this under any other circumstance, they would be arrested. It's that simple. It is especially egregious that children of all ages are violated when they are touched inappropriately by the TSA. The TSA is especially assaultive to citizens with metal in their bodies (hip and knee replacements, amputees, etc.) and other medical conditions (wheelchair bound, breast cancer survivors, colostomy patients, etc.) as they are 100% of the time subject to invasive 'sexual assault pat downs'.

Safety Risk Is Unjustified: There is no reasonable risk by suicidal airline passengers to justify this assault on our liberties as NO suicidal airline passenger in the US has caused any fatalities from a working non-metallic bomb in 50 years. The illegal strip searches and completely inappropriate sexual assault pat downs have found ZERO instances of working non-metallic bombs.

STRIP SEARCH SCANNERS ARE INEFFECTIVE - The TSA's own tests show that these techniques fail – a female TSA agent was reported to have passed through a strip search scanner 5 times with a gun – so the strip search scanners DECREASE SECURITY in actual operation. In March, 2012, a citizen published a video expose of how he easily passed a metal case through both AIT and ATR scanners. The technology is ineffective in preventing any reasonably, determined person from bringing objects through them.

ECONOMICS ARE COSTLY – It costs a substantial amount of money to provide for 2-3 employees to operate each high-priced strip search scanner, which are used to fight a risk that is almost non-existent compared to other higher risks. A paper published in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, <http://polisci.osu.edu/faculty/jmueller/ait2.pdf>, concluded that we would need to see more than 1.6 to 3.3 attacks PER YEAR to have a 90% confidence that the scanners provide an economic benefit. In short, the TSA budget would be better spent on LEGAL procedures addressing high-risk areas such as passenger plane cargo screening (cargo bombs are very rare but are a higher risk area) and on intelligence work to identify high-risk airline passengers – primarily non-US citizens from high-risk countries.

“Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety” - Benjamin Franklin

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“ If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.” - James Madison