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## **Association for Airline Passenger Rights Urges Passengers to Avoid Flying Spirit Airlines until ‘Carry-On’ Luggage Fees are Eliminated; Decision comes as Spirit Airlines set to impose fees on carry-on luggage effective August 1st**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 27, 2010) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (AAPR) today urged the flying public to avoid patronizing Spirit Airlines and temporarily cease flying on the airline until it eliminates its new “carry-on” luggage fees, set to take effect on August 1, 2010. Spirit Airlines is poised to take the airline industry’s current ‘nickel & dime’ business model to the next level by imposing more fees on its customers for carry-on luggage. AAPR is the only consumer rights organization to take this position thus far.

In response to Spirit Airlines’ decision to charge its customers \$45 for carry-on luggage if paid at the gate, and \$30 if paid in advance, AAPR is calling on all potential airline travelers to avoid flying on Spirit Airlines in a show of solidarity against the airline industry’s escalating *addiction* to higher fees. Spirit Airlines already charges its customers \$25 for checked luggage if paid at the gate, and \$19 if paid in advance, and an additional \$25 after the first bag.

“Carry-on luggage is not a luxury, but rather a necessity for most air travelers – especially business travelers flying on short-term business trips,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “It begs the question, what is next – are airlines such as Spirit Airlines going to begin charging its customers for seat belts? Enough is enough and the flying public must take a stand against these egregious fees.”

According to AAPR, other airlines have already committed that they will not follow suit with similar fees on carry-on luggage, but there are no guarantees. AAPR’s decision is designed to send a clear message to the airline industry that there are limits to what the flying public will accept with respect to its “ancillary revenue” business model.

Macsata further stated, “Last year, carriers worldwide took in \$13.5 billion from fees alone. That represents a 43 percent increase over the previous year; at the same time, carriers are now charging more for their fares, too. Yet, airline passengers are NOT seeing an improvement in service. When will the madness end?”

For more information about the Association for Airline Passenger Rights or AAPR’s call for airline passengers to avoid flying on Spirit Airlines until they eliminate their carry-on luggage fees, please visit [www.flyfriendlyskies.com](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) or contact AAPR directly at [info@flyfriendlyskies.com](mailto:info@flyfriendlyskies.com).

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**About AAPR:** The Association for Airline Passenger Rights is a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote fairer customer service and accessibility standards in the airline industry and to improve passenger satisfaction. AAPR was formed in response to growing dissatisfaction among American consumers toward the airline industry.

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