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## **Association for Airline Passenger Rights Calls on TSA Administrator to Apologize for Calling Passengers Concerns “Irresponsible”; Urges Passengers to Support “National Opt-Out Day”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 15, 2010) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (AAPR) today called on John S. Pistole, Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, to publically apologize to the millions of air travelers he referred to as being “irresponsible” for having concerns about his agency’s intrusive security screening techniques. TSA’s arrogant response to passenger concerns is seen as being just as bad as its new aggressive pat-down searches of airlines passengers. Passengers are urged to support the “National Opt-Out Day” which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 24, 2010.

In response to growing concerns over the new pat-down screening, TSA Administrator Pistole was quoted in the Washington Post over the weekend as saying, “It is irresponsible for a group to suggest travelers opt out of the very screening that could prevent an attack using non-metallic explosives.”

AAPR contends that passenger privacy rights don’t need to be sacrificed in order to achieve adequate airport security, which the flying public embraces.

“It is bad enough that the commercial airlines do not respect the flying public, who happen to be the same people that keep them in business – but the government’s failure to appreciate the growing concern and frustration over TSA’s new aggressive pat-down screenings simply adds insult to injury,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “The TSA Administrator should be listening to the flying public, not chastising them for being concerned about their privacy rights. As consumers, we’re disgusted and we’re not going to take it anymore – that’s why we’re urging Americans to support the National Opt-Out Day.”

The goal of “National Opt Out Day” is to send a message to our lawmakers that we demand change. We have a right to privacy and buying a plane ticket should not mean that we’re guilty until proven innocent. This day is needed because many people do not understand what they consent to when choosing to fly. To learn more, go to <http://www.optoutday.com/>.

For more information about the Association for Airline Passenger Rights or its opposition to TSA’s new aggressive pat-down searches, 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.