

**Association for Airline Passenger Rights (AAPR)**

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## **Association for Airline Passenger Rights Calls on TSA to Immediately Discontinue Pat-Down Searches; Calls Technique Flawed and Intrusive**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 9, 2010) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (AAPR) today called on the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (“USDOT”) Transportation Security Administration (“TSA”) to immediately discontinue its new aggressive pat-down searches of airlines passengers. The new screening technique seen as doing little to improve safety at the expense of passenger privacy rights, thus diverting attention and resources from other meaningful safety measures.

Passengers have expressed strong privacy concerns over the new searches, which involved TSA screeners' sliding their hands over passengers' bodies – including their breasts and genitals. The new technique will also hit passengers with disabilities disproportionately hard, raising concerns among disability rights advocates.

“The Transportation Security Administration is supposed to investing its expertise, personnel and resources into protecting the flying public from terrorist attacks, not engaging in useless so-called security screening measures that are flawed at best, and intrusive at worse,” summarized **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “TSA has a history of being a day late and a dollar short on its security measures, and unfortunately their new ‘aggressive’ pat-down searches are in keeping with that history. Passengers, by-in-large, have about as much faith in TSA as they do the commercial airlines – which is what is fueling customer dissatisfaction so much today.”

TSA’s aggressive pat-down searches are not the first time AAPR has called into question the effectiveness of security techniques being employed at domestic airports by the agency.

According to Macsata, AAPR last year wrote to Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon in support of his efforts to “fix” the ill-designed pre-flight, random passenger security screenings being conducted by TSA. AAPR contended that since airline passengers have already completed their security screening prior to even reaching the boarding area TSA was mismanaging its already limited resources. By conducting pre-flight, random passenger security screenings, TSA was also pulling away needed agents from the security check-points that are designed to prevent the need for such searches in the first place.

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.