

Association for Airline Passenger Rights (AAPR)

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Association for Airline Passenger Rights Applauds Legislation Introduced by Representative Marsha Blackburn to Prohibit Certain TSA Employees from Using the Title ‘Officer’ and Wearing Uniforms Resembling Law Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 15, 2011) – The [Association for Airline Passenger Rights](http://www.flyfriendlyskies.com) (“AAPR”) today applauded **U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn** (R-TN) leadership for introducing legislation to prohibit certain employees of the Transportation Security Administration (“TSA”) from using the title of ‘officer’ and from wearing uniforms and carrying badges resembling those of law enforcement officers. The legislation, “Stop TSA’s Reach In Policy Act of 2011,” or STRIP Act, ([H.R. 3806](http://www.congress.gov/bills/112/3806)), would place restrictions on TSA employees who have not received Federal law enforcement training or is not eligible for Federal law enforcement benefits.

“It is outrageous that in a post 9/11 world that the American people should have to live in fear of those whose job it is to keep us safe,” Rep. Blackburn said in a statement. “Congress has sat idly by as the TSA strip searches 85 year old grandmothers in New York, pats down 3 year olds in Chattanooga, and checks colostomy bags for explosives in Orlando. Enough is enough! The least we can do is end this impersonation which is an insult to real cops.”

The legislation comes in response to TSA mistreating elderly travelers, children and travelers with disabilities during the security screening process. It would impact 44,000 TSA airport screeners.

“Putting aside the whole debate over whether TSA is even effectively doing its job, it remains abundantly clear that TSA airport screeners are not federal law enforcement officers and as such are not afforded the same rights and privileges,” argued **Brandon M. Macsata**, Executive Director of the Association for Airline Passenger Rights. “TSA has earned a reputation of bullying travelers, especially since many believe that they are federal law enforcement officers. It needs to stop now.”

H.R.3806 can be viewed online at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3608>:

For more information about the Association for Airline Passenger Rights or passenger concerns over TSA, please visit www.flyfriendlyskies.com or contact AAPR directly at 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.