
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Benton, Baxter, Pflug, Ericksen, Swecker, Zarelli, Carrell, Holmquist Newbry, Becker, Honeyford, and Schoesler

Read first time 04/19/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Efficient air travel is a cornerstone of Washington's
10 economy and quality of life, and no one should have to sacrifice their
11 dignity in order to travel; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington is a major transportation hub for Northwest and
13 West Coast destinations; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington provides extensive trans-Pacific airline routes
15 and direct flights to the major European airports; and

16 WHEREAS, As a result of a change in nationwide policy, the
17 Transportation Security Administration, on October 28, 2010, began
18 implementing new pat down procedures that involve a more intrusive,
19 full body search, during which Transportation Security Administration

1 personnel make inappropriate physical contact with sensitive or private
2 areas of the body; and

3 WHEREAS, The Transportation Security Administration is an agency of
4 the federal government charged with protecting the nation's
5 transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and
6 commerce; and

7 WHEREAS, The Transportation Security Administration is responsible
8 for screening airline passengers and personnel for weapons, explosives,
9 and other contraband that pose a threat to airport security and is
10 responsible for the safety of the general public; and

11 WHEREAS, Current Transportation Security Administration screening
12 policies involve airline passengers and personnel passing through
13 advanced image technology scanners or undergoing a pat down search
14 administered by Transportation Security Administration employees, or
15 both; and

16 WHEREAS, The advanced image technology scanners used by the
17 Transportation Security Administration capture images that depict the
18 shape and outline of a person's full body as it appears underneath the
19 person's clothing; and

20 WHEREAS, Finding advanced image technology scanners to be overly
21 invasive, many airline passengers and personnel choose the option of
22 undergoing a pat down search; and

23 WHEREAS, The new procedures are offensive and humiliating to many
24 individuals on whom they are imposed and are egregious whether imposed
25 in public or private; and

26 WHEREAS, For survivors of physical and sexual abuse, invasive
27 physical searches may cause revictimization; and

28 WHEREAS, For individuals with medical conditions, including those
29 with prosthetics, joint replacements, drainage tubes, pacemakers, or
30 other physical evidence related to a medical condition, invasive
31 physical searches may be particularly traumatic and demeaning, may
32 cause physical harm, and may endanger the person's health; and

33 WHEREAS, Reports have indicated that, in some instances,
34 overzealous Transportation Security Administration employees have
35 carried out the new procedures in a manner sufficiently aggressive to
36 rise to the level of an inappropriate invasion of personal privacy from
37 which an individual would ordinarily be protected under the laws of
38 Washington; and

1 WHEREAS, Travelers who refuse the new screening procedures are not
2 free to proceed beyond security checkpoints to continue their travel;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Encouraging travel by ensuring the right of individuals to
5 move about without fear of undue invasions of privacy is essential to
6 preserving a free society, safeguarding the flow of commerce, and
7 promoting and sustaining goodwill among nations; and

8 WHEREAS, The advanced image technology scanners and pat down search
9 procedures may discourage air travel, causing significant economic and
10 personal hardship to Washingtonians;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
12 Transportation Security Administration reconsider its use of the pat
13 down search procedures adopted on October 28, 2010, and to conduct pat
14 down searches using less invasive but equally efficient procedures, and
15 urge the United States Congress to exercise greater oversight of the
16 Transportation Security Administration.

17 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
18 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
19 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland
20 Security, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
22 Washington.

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