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TSA Scanners Proven Worthless In Airports

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL USA has consistently denounced the illegal and abusive TSA procedures of forcing inch-by-inch searches of airline passengers' bodies, including using scanners to make nude pictures of our children and us, as unconstitutional and degrading to United States citizens. The 'justification' for the "body scanners" is to find suicidal airline passengers with working non-metallic bombs.

However, the historical record shows this alleged threat is as close to non-existent as one can find; it is much less than the risk of a plane having a mechanical failure. In the United States, there have been zero fatalities caused by a suicidal airline passengers with working non-metallic bombs for the last HALF A CENTURY – that is 50 years! In fact, on EVERY FLIGHT in the ENTIRE WORLD for fifteen (15) years, there have been 2 attempts (not on US domestic flights) - and both FAILED miserably despite the bomb makers having 5 years to plan, test, and refine a working non-metallic bomb. This hardly meets the definition of a reasonable threat.

Today, we are excited to share with you that the scanners have been proven worthless in protecting against this extremely remote possibility. Jonathan Corbett, whose pioneering lawsuit against the TSA is pending appeal to the United States Supreme Court, has posted a video explaining how he was easily able to pass through real airport scanners with an undetected metallic object. His video footage (the-tsas-nude-body-scanners/), some recorded at actual airports, shows how he was able to pass through both AIT (nude images) and ATR (gingerbread image) scanners without detection of his metallic object. This is important to point out since ATR is a software-based analysis of the nude picture to detect threats and AIT is based on live examination of the nude pictures. Both deployed scanner types are failures.

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL USA urges Congress to address the wasteful spending over nearly non-existent threats - totaling hundreds of millions of dollars for the purchase, maintenance, and ongoing support of scanners – by suspending the TSA budget for these proven failures.