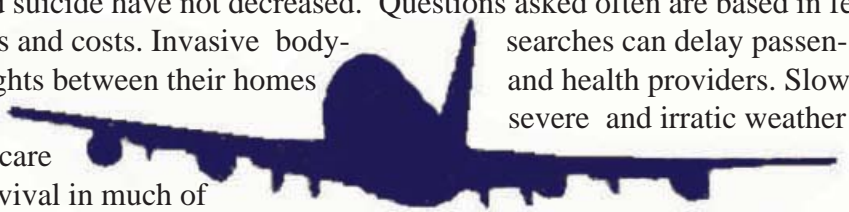


Questions asked for the protection of Alaska's traveling through TSA air travel security screening.

Three Legislative Health Caucus forums were held in 2011 to discuss TSA's plan to bring the full-body scanner to Alaska. Study is needed to assess impacts of the new equipment and resulting hand-examination by TSA non-medically trained employees.

During the past eight years the Legislative Health Caucus has held forums on the State's health conditions, resulting costs and cost-drivers.

Alaska has become the most expensive state in per capita health care spending. At the same time, Alaskan rankings in domestic violence, abuse and suicide have not decreased. Questions asked often are based in fear for already over-burdened health services and costs. Invasive body-searches can delay passengers (often patients in our state) from flights between their homes and health providers. Slow-down in catching flights dependent on severe and erratic weather is crippling to both individuals and health care systems providing care. Community survival in much of urban and rural Alaska depends on recognition of true human safety.



Questions asked:

√ Alaskans fly eight times more than the national average. How can Alaskans safely travel with the multiple times many fliers will be subjected to scanners?

√ Alaska's number one cause of death is cancer. What studies have been done to insure the safety of a population that has often survived previous cancer?

√ Both the older full-body scanners and the reported safer scanners will automatically target seniors and persons with injuries and prostheses. What can TSA do to change the target to unsafe travelers with dangerous intentions?

√ Alaska has the highest number of traumas experienced per capita in the U.S. How will TSA work to safeguard those who live in difficult conditions and require respectful treatment?

√ What are the maintenance and safety regimes for the scanning equipment to safeguard not only the flying public, but the TSA employees as well?

√ Transportation scheduling and maintenance is difficult at airports when subjected to severe weather, earthquakes, volcanic ash and floods. How does TSA plan to keep sensitive screening equipment safe and current in maintenance upkeep when the shortage of qualified inspectors and travel challenges will make

access to equipment difficult?

√ Concern has been expressed about the effect of touch in highly personal parts of the body by non-medical TSA employees. Those touched in private body areas, who have experienced trauma may experience re-victimization. The impact on children is more severe because it not only might create damage to abuse recovery, but may damage healthy self-concept.

√ What safeguards will provide third party monitoring of safety concerns to provide excellent security for children to protect them from being touched inappropriately?

√ What program exists to coordinate children traveling unaccompanied by family, or an adult caregiver, with the airlines they travel on?

√ Are closed rooms taping invasive hand-exams and what is being done with those tapes?

√ Can Alaskans be assured of respectful treatment in the TSA invasive process?

Legislative
Health Caucus

