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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4403

November 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

I write to bring to your attention an incident that recently occurred at the Salt Lake International Airport. The incident (shown in the video link below) involves a father resorting to removing his young son's shirt so that TSA agents could complete a pat-down of the boy.

It has been reported that the boy went through a metal detector without incident, but was nonetheless selected for a pat-down. The boy was understandably reluctant to be groped by a grown man who was a complete stranger to him. Several attempts in which the boy's increasingly frustrated father held the boy's arms out did not satisfy the TSA agents, and eventually the exasperated father resorted to removing his son's shirt. This action finally satisfied the TSA agents and, after proceeding with a shirtless pat-down, they allowed the two to proceed. If true, this act alone is an outrage.

Secondly, Luke Tait, the man who recorded the incident, states that he was harassed by the TSA for recording the incident. Following the incident, he attempted to speak to the father and son but was stopped from doing so by TSA agents. They proceeded to question him about why he was videotaping TSA procedures and repeatedly requested that he delete the video in their presence.

Mr. Tait declined to delete the video and was eventually allowed to proceed to his gate. He claims TSA agents then followed him to his gate, sat only 15 feet away from him while glancing in his direction and speaking on their walkie-talkies, and left only moments before he boarded his flight.

The aforementioned incidents, if accurately described by Mr. Tait, do not speak well of TSA's recently implemented security measures. Surely it is possible to secure an airplane without sacrificing individual liberties or privacy. We can utilize bomb-sniffing dogs, AIT machines as a method of secondary screening, and behavioral profiling to accomplish the shared goal of safe and secure air travel.

I request an immediate investigation into the actions of all involved parties, particularly the alleged mistreatment of Mr. Luke Tait by TSA agents. I also renew my pledge to work with you on this and other issues, as well as my repeated pleas that we rein in the TSA and begin today to use tactics that are both more effective and less invasive.

Video of incident:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSQTz1bccL4>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Chaffetz". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress