

The Traveler Privacy Protection Act of 2023
Senator Jeff Merkley (OR) and Senator John Kennedy (LA)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has been conducting facial recognition scans on thousands of Americans daily, representing one of the largest known efforts in United States history to implement a nationwide facial recognition system.

TSA started testing facial recognition at Los Angeles International Airport after releasing their 2018 Biometrics Roadmap, which advocates for a “biometrically-enabled curb-to-gate passenger experience.”

Despite bipartisan outcry over the risks this poses to our ability to travel freely, this summer, TSA announced that they plan to implement facial recognition scans at over 430 US airports within the next several years.

The bipartisan Traveler Privacy Protection Act would prevent the TSA from using airports as a site to collect Americans’ sensitive facial biometric data by:

- Repealing existing authorization for TSA to explore facial recognition technology and require explicit congressional authorization for future use.
- Immediately banning the Transportation Security Administration from expanding its use of facial recognition.
- Requiring TSA to end its facial recognition program and dispose of facial biometrics within 3 months.