



Traveler Privacy Protection Act

In 2023, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) began deploying facial recognition technology to verify travelers' identities at TSA checkpoints, despite concerns about travelers' privacy and with no evidence this new technology would create safer checkpoints or faster lines. TSA has since rapidly expanded its facial recognition program from a couple airports to over 84 airports today. TSA continues to push forward with this technology, threatening our privacy and paving the way for intrusive government surveillance.

The agency plans to expand its facial recognition surveillance to more than 430 airports across the country and eventually make facial recognition mandatory for all travelers, despite having:

- **No operational data** demonstrating that facial recognition technology has improved airport security or neutralized any credible security threats. TSA itself has stated facial recognition doesn't serve a law enforcement purpose and is rather a means to automate the workforce.
- **No evidence** demonstrating that facial recognition will solve TSA's excessive wait times.
- **No legal limits** on how long TSA can store your facial biometric, how they can use it, or who they can share it with.
- **No congressional authorization** to make facial recognition the default form of identity verification. TSA has been clear that it intends to make face scans mandatory to travel.
- **Inconsistent implementation** of opt-out option for passengers, for instance as exemplified by [Senator Merkley's recent experience](#) trying to opt-out of facial recognition.

The Traveler Privacy Protection Act is crucial data privacy legislation that would:

- Protect travelers' ability to travel without undergoing government face scans;
 - Specifically, TSA will be required to provide each passenger with the option to have their identity verified without the use of facial recognition, and ensure that passengers are clearly notified of this option.
- Prohibit TSA from subjecting travelers who choose not to have their face scanned to discriminatory treatment or less favorable screening conditions.
- Protect travelers' sensitive data obtained through facial recognition technology from being stored indefinitely.
- Prohibit TSA from using facial recognition beyond identity verification at the security checkpoint and from using facial recognition to profile, target, or discriminate against individuals solely for exercising their constitutional rights, or to enable systemic, indiscriminate, or wide-scale monitoring, surveillance, or tracking.

Senator Kennedy is co-leading this legislation and is endorsed by ACLU, American Federation of Government Employees, Public Citizen, EPIC, POGO, and Fight for the Future.