How Has Deregulation Impacted Air Travel in the U.S.?

HISTORY

In the 1970s, Congress passed the *Airline Deregulation Act*, federal legislation that ushered in a new era for air travel in the United States. Previously, government overregulation strangled free market competition from benefiting passengers.

Under the new law, government price controls on air travel were eliminated, private industry took the reins on determining routes, and more carriers were encouraged to enter the market.

CHANGED AIR TRAVEL FOR THE BETTER

Fast forward roughly 50 years and the changes have benefited passengers who are traveling more frequently than ever. Increased competition has made air travel more affordable, convenient, and accessible. Since airline deregulation:

Ticket prices have been cut in half	Share of Americans who fly has grown to more than 85%
Number of flights has doubled	3-times as many passengers

BOTTOM LINE

Embracing the free market and competition in air travel has undoubtedly improved transportation in the United States. Policymakers should avoid moving backwards by reapplying over-the-top rules and restrictions.