

What Do New Travel Regulations Mean for Passengers?

BACKGROUND

The Department of Transportation is implementing new rules for air travel. More specifically, the agency is attempting to ban add-on fees that passengers pay to check a bag or change an itinerary. But this approach is misguided. Rather than helping consumers, the agenda will inevitably place extra compliance costs on business and increase overall prices for passengers.

PASSENGERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY NEED

The new policy will result in passengers being forced into a one-size-fits-all travel experience. In practice, that means higher ticket prices for families because travelers will be sharing the cost of everyone's amenities, including baggage. Under the new rules, a college student flying home with a backpack could be helping to cover the cost of baggage for a passenger with multiple pieces of luggage.



Increase travel costs for passengers



Traveler with 3 bags ≈
Traveler with a backpack



BOTTOM LINE

The current administration is targeting so-called airline “junk fees” as a strategy to attract supporters ahead of the 2024 election. But this approach is bad for passengers. Allowing consumers to continue paying for an a la carte travel experience will keep flights more affordable and accessible to Americans of all economic backgrounds.