The TSA Harasses Americans And Doesn't Keep Us Safe - Why Does It Exist?

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The much-hated Transportation Security Administration is apologizing for its mistreatment of a young boy at a Texas airport. In a video from the boy's mother, totaling over 7 million views and 100,000 shares on Facebook in just four days, you can see the incident unfold between her son and TSA agent.

The Washington Post said of Sunday's video, "it looks like the TSA officer's giving the poor kid a sponge bath, not a pat-down." This is not the first time a major outlet has been critical of our infamous airport security — so what's the deal?

The head of security at the TSA was fired in 2016. A Department of Homeland Security investigation shows that they miss an unimaginable **95%** of guns *and* bombs destined for airplanes, and a former official said on record that the administration is "hopelessly bureaucratic."

In short — the TSA should not exist.

The TSA was established under the Aviation and Transportation Security Act by then-president George W. Bush, just eight days after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. The creation of the TSA marked the largest mobilization of the federal government since WWII.

Curing bureaucracy dysfunction in general is almost impossible, let alone an entity with such an ostensible link to the worst terror attack in world history. Nevertheless, abolition of this nightmare will be good for travel, safety, and civil rights.

Headlines criticizing the TSA are not few and far between. Three months ago, a CNN commentator was traumatized after received a "vaginal pat-down." Four months ago, a mother suffering from breast cancer was brought to tears by the TSA's intrusive pat-down methods. And

earlier this month, it was <u>announced</u> that a new form of enhanced screening will now take place. How wonderful.

Even further, transgender Americans are worried about their treatment in airports across the country, as the Washington Post recently <u>reported</u>. This is more than just another incompetent and under-performing government administration — it's putting Americans in unwarranted danger.

In a scathing 2015 <u>op-ed</u> in the Los Angeles Times, counterintelligence professional John R. Schindler wrote:

Hardly any of the TSA's rules have to do with real airline security. As a professional in the counter-terrorism field, I watch TSA inspectors doing their job and mostly shake my head. 'This is not an airline security system,' opined the former head of security for El Al about the TSA: 'This is a system for bothering people.'

In comparison with the airline security programs of many close U.S. allies in Europe and the Middle East, who were grappling with the threat of terrorism long before 9/11, TSA efforts appear comical and ineffective in equal measure.

Dating back a bit further, Slate ran a <u>piece</u> in 2010 highlighting that:

It's not obvious that they prevent any more attacks than the private contractors who handled checkpoints before the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 went into effect.

A Cato Institute <u>report</u> notes that, "auditors have found that TSA's screening performance has been no better, and possibly worse, than private screening."

Okay, a libertarian think-tank pushing for the shutdown of a government entity, how surprising. But even liberal Vox writer, Dylan Matthews, penned a <u>piece</u> in 2016 titled "The TSA is a waste of money that doesn't save lives and might actually cost them."

The unlikely bedfellows of Slate, Vox, National Review and the Cato Institute have all been critical of how our federal government secures airports. With Trump's approval at an all-time low, the administration could really win over a lot of public support by getting rid of a travel headache while simultaneously beefing up our chances of catching terrorists at airports.

Move the intelligence and data gathering of the TSA to another law enforcement entity, allow individual airports to receive bids from private contractors to do the screening as was the case before 9/11. Make America safer, make flying quicker, and rid our government of waste: abolish the TSA.