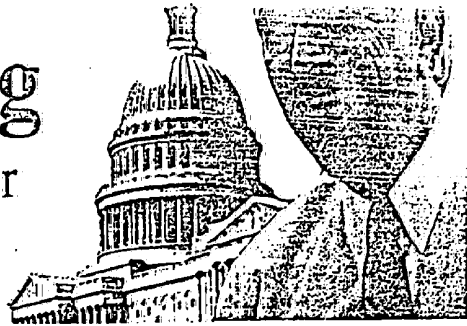


Frank
Lautenberg

United States Senator
for New Jersey



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**Lautenberg to Push For 3-Year Smoking Ban
On Domestic Flights of 2 Hours or Less**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 29, 1987 -- U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee said today that when the Subcommittee marks up its FY 1988 appropriations bill tomorrow, he will propose language in the bill calling for a three-year ban on smoking on all airline flights of two hours or less.

"Approximately 70 percent of airline passengers are nonsmokers, who according to studies, are adversely affected by cigarette smoking," Lautenberg said. "The worst place of all for nonsmoking passengers and flight personnel alike is the cramped confines of an airline cabin. There's no escaping the smoke at 32,000 feet!"

Under the Lautenberg legislation, which would take effect four months after the bill is enacted, smoking would be banned for three years on all scheduled flights of two hours or less.

"What we've seen over recent years is a steady trend toward protecting the health of nonsmokers," said Lautenberg. "Forty-one states and the District of Columbia restrict smoking in public places in one form or another, and as recent as yesterday, the State of California banned smoking on all intra-state flights."

The Lautenberg bill also makes it unlawful for anyone to disable or tamper with smoke alarms in airplane lavatories.

"During the course of this three-year ban, we don't want smoking in the airline cabins or in the lavatories on flights of two hours or less," Lautenberg said.

In a related matter, Lautenberg said that the Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested permission to use \$750,000 in leftover 1987 funds to conduct further research into the issue of airline cabin tobacco smoking. Lautenberg indicated he will approve this request.