

# C·A·T·S NEWS RELEASE

Citizens Against Tobacco Smoke

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Total Ban on Smoking for all Domestic Flights Warranted;  
FAA and Congress Should Take Immediate Action Says Leader of  
National Anti-Smoking Group.

Washington, D.C.--Opponents of smoking on commercial airlines are pressuring the federal government to enforce a total ban on smoking for all domestic flights. Citing new information available to Congress and the FAA regarding the harmful effect of tobacco smoke on the nation's flight attendants, Ahron Leichtman, President of Citizens Against Tobacco Smoke, called upon FAA Administrator T. Allan McArtor to examine the evidence and to determine what steps the FAA can take to implement a smoking ban since the FAA is responsible for the health and safety of all airline crews.

"The airliner cabin is the workplace for more than 90,000 flight attendants who are subjected to toxic and harmful chemicals including 84 known carcinogens which are among the more than 3800 chemicals in ambient tobacco smoke," Leichtman said. "The airlines and their trade association should have dealt with this issue long ago. The airlines have said they are waiting for government regulation. They fully expect it. Until now, the airlines appear to be supporting the position that smokers have some inherent privilege to assault others with the harmful and toxic chemicals in tobacco smoke, which are the waste products of an addiction, and to fill an airplane--including the lungs of all its passengers, with disease-causing pollutants." Leichtman went on to cite the results of a survey recently conducted by the Association of Professional Flight Attendants which showed that 97% of the respondents suffered burning and red eyes, 95% reported nasal irritation, 90% suffered stuffiness, 85% had sinus problems and pain, and 95% suffered headaches--all caused by sidestream tobacco smoke.

"The 450 million people who are expected to travel by air this year and the nation's 90,000 flight attendants need more protection from exposure to tobacco smoke," said Leichtman. "A significant segment of the flying public suffers discomfort in order to avail themselves of the most convenient and rapid form of intercity public transportation, and a smaller segment of the population--people with cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and allergies--is denied access altogether because of a life threatening or a debilitating condition," Leichtman asserted.

The senate plans to debate whether or not to include in the transportation appropriations bill for fiscal 1988 a two hour

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