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## **Liberal Transport Critic Gives No-Fly List a Failing Grade**

OTTAWA – The Conservative government’s Passenger Protect Program deserves a failing grade for not protecting Canadians, for being secretive, and for a lack of accountability, Liberal Transport Critic Joe Volpe said today.

Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon recently announced a Canadian version of the American No-Fly list, which will be a list of Canadians who are banned from flying, because the Minister of Transport deems them a security risk.

“The Minister of Transport is solely responsible for putting people’s names on the No-Fly list and he has been silent on the process of how a Canadian’s name is put on,” said Mr. Volpe. “People’s names are put on the list after he consults with only who knows whom. This is a dangerous and unchecked power for one person.”

The program has even been criticized by one of the Minister’s own Conservative colleagues, Gord Brown, Member of Parliament for Leeds-Grenville. In the June 7 meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, Mr. Brown stated, “I have no confidence whatsoever in what your (Department of Transport) is doing to keep Canadians safe.”

The proposed list has many other flaws, including the fact that minors who appear to be over the age of 12 are subject to suspicion and are required to provide ID not normally available to or used by minors traveling within Canadian destinations, which will create delays and costs for many Canadian families.

Also, there is no mechanism to guarantee the removal of names incorrectly found on the list, and it has not been revealed how the Department of Transport will ensure protection of personal information when it is provided to the airlines. Furthermore, the United States No-Fly List is the one that major airlines have opted to use, which raises questions as to the effectiveness of a parallel Canadian system.

“Overall, this announcement was very short on details, poorly communicated to Canadians, and long on unanswered questions,” said Mr. Volpe.

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