



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Juan Suarez  
Phone: (888) 825-7421 x 230  
E-mail: [jsuarez@alphaone.org](mailto:jsuarez@alphaone.org)

## **Passengers Requiring Supplemental Oxygen** **Misled by New Security Guidelines**

### *Future Rights in Limbo*

**MIAMI (Aug. 15)** – Three Miami-based non-profit organizations have been working diligently to resolve the confusion that arose last week when the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) changed the rules on what individuals may bring as carry-on luggage when traveling aboard passenger airplanes. **The Alpha-1 Foundation, Alpha-1 Association, and COPD Foundation have taken several steps to resolve the current issues, including contacting the TSA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).**

The organizations have two primary concerns: 1) the security guidance statement issued by TSA is misleading and 2) patients may no longer be permitted to bring portable oxygen concentrators aboard. (These devices are currently permitted by the FAA and are generously allowed by airlines that have elected to do so voluntarily).

The security guidance statement indicates that individuals may bring aboard necessary liquid prescription medications; however, this may confuse individuals who use liquid prescription oxygen, which is not allowed on board. The three organizations, and the patient community they represent, are concerned that the new rules and heightened security will inhibit a final ruling from the FAA regarding the ability of individuals to bring their portable oxygen concentrator onboard passenger aircraft.

“Any new regulation on equipment taken on aircraft, such as prescribed medications, should include personal oxygen concentrators,” insists Dr. Thomas L. Petty, COPD Foundation board member and Chair Emeritus of the National Lung Health Education Program. In the United States there are 1.4 million individuals currently dependent on supplemental oxygen to breathe and they are unable to utilize airline transportation without excessive cost and undue burden.

The proposed rule would require airlines to allow these individuals to bring their portable oxygen concentrators onboard passenger aircraft. These devices concentrate oxygen from cabin air and deliver it through conventional oxygen tubing, supported by battery power.

**About the Alpha-1 Association** The mission of the Alpha-1 Association is to identify those affected by Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) and to improve the quality of their lives through support, education, advocacy, and research. For more information, please visit: [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org).

**About the Alpha-1 Foundation** The mission of the Alpha-1 Foundation is to provide the leadership and resources that will result in increased research, improved health, worldwide detection, and a cure for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. For more information, please visit: [www.alphaone.org](http://www.alphaone.org).

**About the COPD Foundation** The mission of the COPD Foundation is to develop and support programs, which improve the quality of life for persons whose lives are impacted by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease through research, education, public awareness, early diagnosis and enhanced therapy. For more information, please visit: [www.copdfoundation.org](http://www.copdfoundation.org).

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## ***CONTACTING EXPERTS FOR INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:***

### **Oxygen Experts**

Tom Petty, MD, Chair Emeritus  
National Lung Health Education Program  
Phone: (303) 717-0325      Fax: (303) 832-5137

Dennis E. Doherty, MD, FCCP, Chairman  
National Lung Health Education Program  
Professor of Medicine and Chief  
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
University of Kentucky College of Medicine  
Phone: (859) 323-5045      Fax: (859) 257-6788

Sam Giordano, Executive Director/CEO  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
Phone: (972) 243-2272      Fax: (972) 484-2720

### **Oxygen Patients**

Fred Walsh, AlphaNet  
Phone: (781) 883-2639

Annie Garcia  
Phone: (404) 885-1212