

NewsNation Now Panel - Should "Disruptive" Passengers Be Banned?

Well have you ever from a plane How about a seat mate who may have a foul odor or a passenger who argues with the flight attendant These are questions Congress may have to consider as they weigh a nationwide no fly list right now The bill says anyone could be banned for several offenses including assaulting threatening or intimidating a crew member or a passenger aboard a flight It's targeting un passengers like this and countless others who have made headlines recently for disruptive behavior on planes but disruptive may mean different things to different people Let's welcome our panel positive psychology expert and author Robert Mack and content creator Sonal Shah So Robert I'll start with you Does this feel like we're entering a tricky gray area or is it about time we had a lot to manage this Yeah it's a great question I'd say both It's a complex debate obviously and while you know safety is paramount in air travel defining what constitutes disruptive behavior can be extraordinarily challenging It's hard to sort of strike this balance between protecting staff and passengers from genuine threats on one hand but not sort of of unfairly penalizing individuals for minor inconveniences or subjective judgments Certainly And how long do these bans last other questions So how do you address someone who may have a foul odor or someone who's clearly under the weather Would you report them confront them or just kind of bite your lip and make it through I would bite my lip and make it through personally I'd be I believe people are people And so there is this uh like where do you draw the line between somebody who you know doesn't smell well or someone who is too loud I mean this is humanity and we're talking about public transportation So I do believe that if somebody is uh initiating harm or violence or hate that is a different situation But I believe somebody is smelly I would I would hold my nose and take care of myself I would put on my oxygen mask first so to speak I think most people would do the same and I appreciate that perspective So Robert we'll pose that question to you Where do you draw the line There's obviously a difference between a crying child versus an eight year old who's maybe misbehaving without oversight But how do we begin that conversation Yeah it's uh so difficult to define disruptive behavior right I mean obviously what you're seeing there on the screen seems extraordinarily disruptive But on the other hand it's like as a crying baby disruptive as an

emotional support dog Um being disruptive and so sort of defining disruptive behavior is the first piece Um the second piece is um you know if it does feel like it's disruptive then the question is do you address it with the airline Do you address it with the authorities or do you just address it with the flight attendant And there's a way to do all of that in a diplomatic um sort of approach and uh and sort of tactfully um but it's a really slippery slope right Because at some point some things that bother someone don't bother someone else and they feel like it's disruptive and they should regulate it to the CEO and there are other folks that feel like you know that's just part of the experience that you expect to have when you travel So you mentioned animals and I think that's a really fascinating point So do you think these new regulations may cover comfort animals on planes in the future I mean once again if the being is inciting violence or harm then yes I believe that but I'm not sure about it being government related because ultimately I feel like this is isn't this putting more of a divide on people and beings Isn't that what we're trying to not have we want if if people are people what qualifies you know do we want to make these animals robots Do we want to make these people robots Like what qualifies you know one good versus bad and evil versus good You know unless it is yes inherently evil And it's very obvious I think to everyone I I agree with you a lot more questions than answers with this one I'd have to say So let's move on to more with our furry friends Pets should paid pet bereavement be a thing Nearly half of Americans think it should be That's according to a new poll Perhaps Unsurprisingly there is a generational divide here Most baby boomers say no way while younger generations say their pets are their family So so does that surprise you and what happened between generations to make us think so differently about this Yeah I I don't it doesn't surprise me at all I think that uh there is a divide in terms of social awareness and social consciousness in terms of mental health There is a there is a a world where people were grew you know grew up in a society where we were kind of taught to suppress it and suppress emotions But I I also wanna ask that if if if we get time off for pet bereavement can we also get time off for a breakup or for a divorce You know these are all things that or maybe we get the time off and maybe it's unpaid but we're not gonna get penalized by it I hear you Yeah No I hear you So No So we've got about 10 seconds left Robert are you for against this Oh my goodness I'm uh for general policies that allow people to take off equal amounts of time regardless of why they want to take it off So that probably doesn't answer the question exactly what you want Um and exactly the way

you want me to answer it But I would say I'm for people getting time off to take care of their loved ones All right No longer right here Robert Mack and so Shaw thank you for being with us A great conversation