The national outcry over intrusive body searches at American airports intensified today after it emerged security staff were caught on camera frisking a crying three-year-old girl.

Mandy Simon is seen sobbing and pleading with staff at Chattanooga, Tennessee airport.

She had become upset after having to have her teddy bear put through an X-ray machine and can be heard screaming: 'Stop touching me!'

Elsewhere at least two passengers, including a 54-year-old Missouri City man, have complained about airport staff putting their hands down the front and rear of their pants - as invasive new screening measures are increasingly criticised.

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