

On behalf of the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License and the 9-11 Families for a Secure America I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today on an issue that is of extraordinary importance to me and to every other relative of the victims of the 9/11 mass murders.

Those attacks took the lives of 3000 Americans, and among them, in the WTC, was my 23 year old son, James

As I speak I ask you **not to think in abstract terms.**

Jamie was not a statistic to me. He was a warm, loving, honorable and kind human being, and every minute of every day I am in pain from the loss we have suffered, the loss his fiancé suffered and his loss of his future.

From my many friends among the other 9-11 families I know they feel the same horrible never-ending, uninterrupted misery. All of us are constantly haunted as well by the knowledge that most of the victims did not die rapidly but suffered in ways we have nightmares about.

There are some among us who actually spoke to their loved ones by cell phone from the burning Towers....who heard the horror in their voices as they realized...trapped with no chance of escape, that because of fire, smoke or falling debris they would soon be dead.

Others, those on the planes, suffered as they looked into the demented, soulless eyes of the monsters who slit the throats of their fellow passengers and flew them all to their deaths.

What I am asking you to do is **to REMEMBER..the DEAD and how they came to die...**

Remember that your decisions in the state legislatures about who gets drivers' licenses can mean life for the people you represent...or death.

When I speak, AND ESPECIALLY when you hear from our opponents....

**REMEMBER...the dead.**

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**ALL THE 9/11 FAMILY MEMBERS KNOW that our loved ones died because gov't at all levels failed to live up to its most BASIC, Constitutionally specified obligation to its citizens ... to protect them from foreign attack.**

WE KNOW THE **FEDERAL GOV'T** failed in the areas of foreign and domestic intelligence and that the State Dept did not care enough about the safety of Americans to bother screening those who applied for visas to enter the US.

And we **know too that the States** failed us.... nearly all the 9/11 hijackers had US-issued drivers' licenses—from Virginia, Florida and New Jersey--- that these licenses were the "valid Ids" that allowed them to get on the planes they that used to murder our loved ones.

By giving them those licenses VA , FLA, and New Jersey **AIDED and ABETTED** the hijackers.

The last line of defense against these attacks were the airline boarding gates, and with those drivers' licenses the terrorists passed through those gates, numerous times...in numerous places, no questions asked.

It is very clear... when a person shows up at the airline gate, if he has a "valid ID" he gets on the plane. Without it he does not.

**Does any state, does any legislator, really want to continue to be in the business of providing aliases and boarding passes to the next 9/11 terrorists?**

The lax driver's license requirements of VA, FLA and other states such as Tenn, Utah, and N.C. are **reflections of attitudes of an earlier, safer era.**

In times past legislators could not have known that the licenses of their states could become important tools for terrorists.

**After 9-11 no one can FAIL TO KNOW** of the threat posed by a driver's license in the hands of a terrorist.

Thus, the 9-11 Families are appalled that ANYONE could oppose the following reforms:

**ONE** A legal presence requirement, satisfied by showing some combination of authenticated birth certificate, naturalization papers, social security number, etc. OR

In the case of NON-CITIZENS, legal presence proven with authenticated green card, visa or any other federally issued document granting permission to be in the US. Licenses issued to aliens must display an expiration date that is the same as the expiration date of the legal presence documentation.

**TWO.** Biometric identifiers, such as fingerprint and/or digitized photograph with data recorded in the database of the driver's license issuing authority...or "DLIA"

**THREE.** Accessibility of the database of each DLIA by the DLIA's of every other state and federal, state, and local police agencies.

**In recognition of their role, unintentional though it was,** in aiding and abetting the 9/11 terrorists in carrying out their attacks, Va. ,FLA, and New Jersey have, by statute, changed their requirements to include legal presence.

Shamefully, other states like Utah, Tennessee and North Carolina retain the lax rules that formerly existed in VA and FLA.

To the disgust of the 9-11 families and many millions of other Americans Calif has just decided to give licenses to illegals.

Gov Davis signing played a major role in his removal from office

Now, Ill with Sen. Del Valle's wants to do the same

And, let me say to Sen. Del Valle and the people of Illinois, that you could not find a better way to express your contempt for 3,000 murdered Americans and contempt for those who may die in the future, than by supporting .

Sen. Del Valle, at the **EXPRESS DIRECTION** of the members of 9/11 Families for a Secure America.... I tell you that words **cannot fully express our disgust.**

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## **Really, WHAT IS A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND WHY IS IT SUCH A BASIC TERRORIST TOOL?**

**Legally**, of course, it is merely permission to drive a car.  
But **DE FACTO** it is far more:

It is the basic identity document for nearly everyone in the US. It grants to the bearer a legitimacy that he entirely lacks if he does not have one.

It grants him an aura of legitimacy whether he deserves it or not

It was for this reason that the **9/11 terrorists made every effort upon arrival in the US** to obtain driver's licenses, which most did, quite easily. Many of them had several from different states.

They then used those licenses to rent apartments and establish the appearance of legal residence.... the appearance of legitimacy.

Then with those licenses as their "valid ID" they opened the bank accounts that they used to hold the funds to finance their conspiracy.

Using the bank accounts opened with aid of their licenses **they then obtained credit cards.**

**At each step of the way they solidified the appearance of legitimacy. And the driver's license was the basis of it all.**

When they rented cars and rented motel rooms in the course of their travels around the nation to plan their murderous attacks they had no problem because like every ordinary American they had driver's licenses, credit cards and bank accounts.

Finally, they used their licenses and credit cards to obtain their airline tickets, and nearly all used their licenses to board the planes.

**In short, from first act of "establishing legitimacy" to final boarding of the planes that they used as weapons of mass destruction, the driver's license was the TERRORISTS' ESSENTIAL TOOL.**

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Members of CSDL and 9-11FSA have spoken in numerous states in support of reform legislation.

In every state we hear the very same, baseless claims made by the other side.  
**Let us deal with.. and discard them.. one by one.**

**Claim #1.** The terrorists could have boarded the airplanes with their passports.

**Answer: Does anyone believe that after 9-11 a group of young men carrying passports from terrorist-sponsoring nations can get on a plane without raising loud alarms with airport security, boarding personnel and plane crews???**

**In stark contrast** those same men, boarding with US- issued drivers' licenses are suddenly transformed into a non-threat.

**When you fly home after this conference, which scenario do you think will provide you greater security?**

**Claim #2:** There are some **legal** residents and visitors to the US who cannot provide documentation of their legal status and thus will be denied a driver's license.

This is the **most common falsehood** spread by the other side.  
But it is just that... a falsehood.

Every LEGAL immigrant and visitor, no **matter under what provision of law** he/she is admitted to the US, has the federally issued documents that prove their legal status.

Even if lost or destroyed, these are all replaceable.

**The ONLY REASON A PERSON CANNOT PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF LEGAL STATUS IS BECAUSE HE/SHE IS NOT LEGALLY PRESENT IN THE US.**

**THIS IS THE KEY POINT:** Because such people have come to our country in violation of the law, they have never presented themselves to federal immigration officials. Therefore, their identities have never been verified, nor have their backgrounds been checked for criminal or terrorist activities.

**WE CANNOT PROTECT OUR SECURITY IF PEOPLE WHO MAY BE CRIMINALS OR TERRORISTS ARE ALLOWED TO ILLEGALLY ENTER THE US AND ARE THEN ABLE TO OBTAIN DRIVERS' LICENSES.**

**It is necessary here to talk about the strategy of deception employed in virtually EVERY statement by virtually every individual and organization which advocates granting licenses to illegal aliens.**

Invariably, these advocates use the term **"immigrants,"** thus attempting to mislead legislators and the public into thinking that **Legal** immigrants will be denied their "rights."

For confirmation of this look at the website of the National Immigration Law Center, LaRaza, Maldef, LULAC, etc

The fact is that legal immigrants and visitors **already are** granted the right to obtain a driver's license in every state and territory of the US.

If these groups are demanding that LEGAL immigrants be granted licenses their job is done.

But that is not what they want. They want licenses for people who have entered this country illegally.

**Claim #3** It is too much to expect Motor Vehicle clerks to be responsible for making a determination as to who is legal and who is not.

**Answer:** This is absolutely **true**. Only the federal government has the power to make such a determination....if the applicant has the documentation from the feds which shows legal status, the DMV clerk processes the application.

If the applicant **lacks** the documents either he obtains them from federal authorities or the application cannot be processed.

DMV clerks need thus rely only on federal documents, all easily verified by contact with Washington.

On the other hand, if a state refuses to rely on the federal gov't's determination, then the only alternative is to expect DMV clerks to examine and verify documents from any of the over 150 countries around the world, and the thousands of provinces, cities and other authorities with the power to issue official papers.

The only result of this can be chaos.

**CLAIM #4.** Immigration law is a matter for the federal government, not the states.

TRUE. But should States **thwart federal immigration** law by giving licenses to those who violate it? If so, then why not thwart federal income tax law, or environmental law whenever they choose?

As the Minn. Director of Public Safety Charlie Weaver put it: "Persons who are convicted of DWI, who receive too many speeding tickets, or are otherwise proven unsafe to drive, can lose their driving privileges. Why should illegal immigrants, who refuse to accept the rules of society on immigration, receive favored treatment over drivers who are held accountable for their actions?"

**Claim #5** It is better to have illegal aliens driving around with licenses than without them so that they can obtain insurance.

**ANSWER:**

An illegal alien is a person who has broken the law by entering this country in violation of the law. He has violated the law by residing here, and if he is working he is breaking additional laws. To claim that a person who has established a pattern of illegal behavior will suddenly become an adherent of the rules of the road is laughable.

As for the claim that illegal aliens will maintain insurance, we have we have never once heard of any study that backs up this claim. We are sure that if there were such a study it would be touted without end.

Again, Mr. Weaver, the Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety: "...advocates argue that they want to give drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants so they will be safer drivers. This argument is completely without merit and is a transparent attempt to turn the illegal immigrant problem into a public safety issue. There is no evidence that if illegal aliens received drivers licenses they would enroll in driver education programs, obtain insurance, and refrain from fleeing the scene of an accident. Common sense dictates that an individual on the run from the law would not wait around at an accident site for the police to arrive."

And let me add that this is particularly true of a person whose identity has never been verified.

Far better to flee to his native country than face the law here.

**Claim #5:** Laws denying licenses to those not legally present are 'unconstitutional.'

**ANSWER:** If we look at the website of Ms. Moran's group Nat'l Immigration Law Center. We will find that, wisely, no such claim is asserted,... because of course such a claim **lacks any shred** of Constitutional basis.

Instead, they refer to "challenges" to restrictions on "immigrants' rights" to licenses in various states. But each of those instances was a case of a state caving in to political pressure. There is not one reference to a legal victory.

**Claim #6** Those who support secure drivers' licenses are "anti-immigrant" or "racist"

**It is easy to expose this lie simply** by looking at the members of the Board of Directors of 9-11Families for a Secure America.

Of the 13 members of our board:

One is Hispanic.

One was married to a Hispanic immigrant who was killed on 9/11

One is African-American

One is an immigrant herself and

Of the 13, all but two are the children or grandchildren of immigrants.

I am the son and brother of immigrants

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**It is also claimed that there is a trend among the States toward allowing more lax standards. That is not the reality.** Look at the list of states that have significantly strengthened their laws since 9-11:

**Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia and Texas.**

**In Virginia, the legal presence bill passed overwhelmingly in the House 82 to 15 and the Senate 32 to 8.**

**Yes, the proponents of mass law violation are powerful, well organized and extremely well funded. They include employers who want an endless supply of cheap docile labor to replace American, The Immigration Lawyers whose entire livelihood is based on mass immigration, The Rockefeller and Ford Foundation and ideologically motivated groups. These powerful interests have succeeded in pressuring Maryland and New Mexico as well as Calif, to give DLs to illegals**

**But there are popular bills currently under consideration in Conn, NC, Tenn and elsewhere to tighten up.**  
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There is reasonable concern among many about what secure drivers licenses may mean for privacy in the US, and whether we are advocating a national identity card.

**The Coalition for a Secure Driver's License and 9/11 FSA strongly oppose a national ID, and also worry about privacy.**

**The secure DL is the best way to AVOID a national identity card and insure privacy.**

We propose that all necessary changes be enacted by legislation rather than regulations issued by agencies.

That this legislation would preserve exactly as it now exists, each State and territory's authority to issue and revoke drivers' licenses.

Each state would maintain its own records.

Legislation will specify that the license is not to be used as part of any attempt to create a system of national identity cards.

No extraneous information , such as employment, status as welfare recipient, criminal record (other than driving related) would be permitted to be added to the database.

Finally, the social security number of the licensee would NOT appear on the license itself, but of course, the SSN, one of the bases for issuing the license, would be in the database. Instead, a unique number would be assigned to each license.

Once this is accomplished, federal legislation could then prohibit the use of the SSN in the myriad daily transactions of life, such as obtaining phone service or registering at college.

Thus, **Americans' privacy would be enhanced, not diminished.**

The identification that we carry **voluntarily** would be accurate, verifiable , difficult to forge. But if forged, instantly revealable as such by inexpensive technology and the PROCESS of accessing the data in the DLIA.

It is the PROCESS, not the Card itself that is the assurance of security.

If we fail to enact the secure driver's license future events may make the national ID card inevitable.

How many more murdered Americans and 9/11s will the country tolerate before concerns about privacy collapse in panic to concerns about safety.

The secure DL is the best, maybe the only way, to avoid the national ID card.

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You have today heard Ms. Moran say that she is "sorry" for my loss and the loss of the other 3000 victims of September 11.

The members of 9/11 FSA expected to hear such an expression.

We discussed it and I was instructed to reject it and throw it back in her face.

An apology is due from someone who has committed a wrong. Ms. Moran, the National Immigration Law Center and the other groups who have contributed to the conditions that permitted the 9/11 hijackers to succeed in murdering our loved ones do owe us an apology. So do the groups that fund these groups, such as the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, etc.

**But we will not accept a simple "sorry" from those who, refusing to alter their support for those dangerous policies, because of ignorance, greed, ideology or whatever, continue to promote the policies that will allow another 9-11 attack in the future. .**

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In closing, let me remind your that shortly after 9/11, Pres. Bush stood on the ruins of the Twin Towers, **THE ONLY TOMB MY SON WILL EVER KNOW**, and said, "I hear you."

**However, ALL the 9/11 family members I have ever spoken to, heard from or heard of , whether Democrat or Republican have said that, based on the President's policies since 9/11 they DO NOT BELIEVE he has heard us.**



But I tell you this: there are many thousands of us all over the United States, people whose lives have been shattered because States, responding to special interest group demands, have given “valid ID” to criminals and terrorists.

Ms Moran will not listen, the Nat’l Immigration Law Center will not listen.

**BUT...WE WILL BE HEARD.**

**WE ASK YOU in the STATE LEGISLATURES TO HEAR US**

Thank you.