

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2004

The Honorable William Frist, M.D.  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

We remain deeply committed to protecting our troops by providing the men and women of the U.S. armed forces with every tool and resource needed to fight the insurgency in Iraq and provide relief to the victims of the tsunami. Absent a commitment that the supplemental bill will not be used as a vehicle for controversial agendas, we are concerned that its expedited enactment will be jeopardized by inclusion of the "REAL ID" Act. Thus, we write urging you to oppose any attempts to attach this legislation to the emergency supplemental spending bill and to commit that it will not appear in a conference report that returns to the Senate for consideration.

The REAL ID Act would make major shifts in immigration and asylum policy, and therefore should be considered carefully and deliberately. Accordingly, we urge you to ensure that the Senate follows normal parliamentary procedures when it takes up the REAL ID Act. Because of its magnitude, this legislation should be referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on a schedule that provides adequate time for full and careful consideration. Legislating in such a complex area without the benefit of hearings and expert testimony is a dubious exercise and one that subverts the Senate's deliberative process.

By following these procedures, the Senate will ensure swift passage of vital funds for our armed forces and tsunami relief while properly examining the important issues of securing our borders. We know that you share this goal, and we look forward to your leadership and assistance.

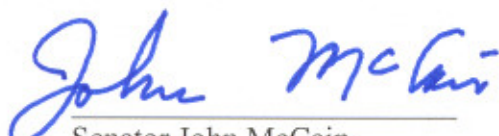
Sincerely,



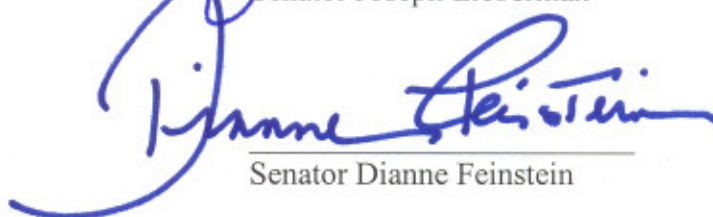
Senator Sam Brownback



Senator Joseph Lieberman



Senator John McCain



Senator Dianne Feinstein

Lamar Alexander  
Senator Lamar Alexander

Patrick Leahy  
Senator Patrick J. Leahy

John E. Sununu  
Senator John E. Sununu

Dick Durbin  
Senator Richard J. Durbin

Chuck HAGEL  
Senator Chuck Hagel

Ed Kennedy  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Rick Lugar  
Senator Richard G. Lugar

Ken Salazar  
Senator Ken Salazar