

Co-sponsor Legislation to REPEAL REAL ID's UNFUNDED MANDATE and PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Deadline for Original Cosponsorship: Thursday, Feb. 15th

February 13, 2007

Dear Colleague,

On January 25, the Maine Legislature was the first in the nation to refuse to implement and call for the full repeal of the REAL ID Act. State legislatures in *Arizona, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington, and Wyoming* have all registered their concerns with REAL ID. Legislation is pending in *Hawaii, Maryland, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Utah*.

The REAL ID Act establishes a strict federal mandate for state driver's licenses. According to REAL ID, by May 2008, states must implement new standards, new technology, and new procedures for processing and approving driver's license applications. Estimated costs for implementation nationwide run upwards of \$11 billion.

In addition, REAL ID requires states to create an electronic database of all information from every driver's license issued. It further requires states to link their electronic database to that of every other state in the nation, effectively creating a nationwide database with records on every individual with a driver's license in the entire country. Even with the best efforts to secure the data, a break-in by a determined hacker or identity thief could compromise the personal information of millions of Americans.

We must ensure that our identity documents are secure. But REAL ID will not work in its current form. This week, I will introduce legislation to repeal the REAL ID's driver's license requirements and reestablish the negotiated rulemaking process that was just a few days underway when REAL ID became law. This process will bring together DHS, DOT, states, and experts in privacy, civil liberties, and constitutional rights to establish national standards that will protect both national security and the privacy of American citizens.

For more information, or to be an original cosponsor, please contact Megan Shannon-Winterson at x56116 or via email at megan.shannon-winterson@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

/s
Tom Allen
Member of Congress

