



REAL ID: WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

The Real ID Act was rammed through Congress without hearings in May 2005. It was attached to emergency supplemental legislation providing funds to continue the war in Iraq and humanitarian relief for victims of the recent Pacific tsunami. The Real ID Act:

Is a REAL national ID. Drivers' licenses will contain a standardized set of information collected by all 50 states, backed up by a standardized "machine-readable zone" and by a national database of ID information. Local Department of Motor Vehicle offices will become federal agents charged with administering an internal passport without which you will be unable to function in the United States.

Is REAL ineffective. REAL ID is supposed to stop terrorism. ID documents do not reveal anything about evil intent – and even if they did, determined terrorists will always be able to obtain fraudulent documents (either counterfeit or real documents bought from corrupt officials).

Is a REAL nightmare for state governments. States will have to remake their driver's licenses, restructure computer databases and systems, create an extensive new document-storage system, and expand security measures. They will have to verify the "issuance, validity and completeness" of every birth certificate, every immigration document, every utility bill, and every other document -- not just when a drivers' license is first issued, but every time you want to *renew* it as well.

Is REAL expensive. It could cost as much as \$23 billion, leaving you to pay additional steep fees when applying for driver's licenses.

Is a REAL hassle. You are also likely to confront slower service, longer lines, and frequent bureaucratic snafus -- maybe even bureaucratic nightmares - in obtaining these ID cards.

Is a REAL identity theft risk. The creation of a single interlinked database as well as the requirement that each DMV store copies of every birth certificate and every other document creates huge new security risks by creating a one-stop shop for identity thieves.

Is a REAL invasion of privacy. The IDs must include a "common machine-readable technology" that will allow for easy, computerized transfer of the data on the cards. That will make it easy for anybody in private industry to snap up the data on these IDs and put it up for sale, not subject even to the limited privacy rules in effect for the government.

Is a REAL step toward a surveillance society. This new national identity card will create an infrastructure for the routine tracking, monitoring, and regulation of your activities. Its centralized database will inevitably, over time, become the repository for more and more data on individuals, as we become a "show me your papers, please" society.

SAY NO! TO REAL ID

- On March 1, 2007 the Department of Homeland Security issued regulations on the Real ID Act. The ACLU analysis of these regulations demonstrates that they failed to address 51 of the 56 major problems identified with the Real ID Act.
- The legislatures of Maine, Idaho, Arkansas, Washington, Montana, Hawaii, North Dakota, Colorado, Nevada, Georgia & Missouri have already rejected the Real ID. Other states are moving in the same direction. And Congress has the chance to roll back the Real ID.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. In Massachusetts, Real ID cannot be implemented without action by the state legislature. Let's make sure that never happens. **Ask your state Representative and state Senator to support Senator Richard Moore's Senate bill 2138, "Resolutions Memorializing the US Congress on the Implementation of REAL ID".**
2. **Ask Massachusetts Senators Kennedy and Kerry to support the Identification Security Enhancement Act of 2007 (S. 717), filed by Senators Akaka and Sununu** (and co-sponsored by Senators Leahy and Tester). It would repeal the driver's license section of the Real ID Act and replace it with the negotiated rulemaking process established by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Tell Senators Kennedy and Kerry they should NOT support the two-year delay in implementing Real ID, offered by Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican, as an amendment to S.4, the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Say you want Congress to act against Real ID, not delay it.

Ask your Member of Congress to support H.R. 1117, filed in the House by Rep. Tom Allen, a Democrat from Maine. This is a companion bill to the Akaka-Sununu legislation.

Senator Kennedy	(202) 224-4543	Senator Kerry	(202) 224-2742
Rep. Capuano	(202) 225 5111	Rep. McGovern	(202) 225 6101
Rep. Delahunt	(202) 225 3111	Rep. Meehan	(202) 225 3411
Rep. Frank	(202) 225 5931	Rep. Neal	(202) 225 5601
Rep. Lynch	(202) 225 8273	Rep. Olver	(202) 225 5335
Rep. Markey	(202) 225 2836	Rep. Tierney	(202) 225 8020

3. **Write a letter to your local paper** to educate your community about the dangers of the Real ID. Send copies of your letter to bcorr@aclum.org.

**For more information: see www.realnighmare.org.
www.aclum.org.**

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