



What Others Are Saying

REAL ID

Documents Equal Weapons: “For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons.”(The 9/11 Commission)

9/11 Commissioner Says Identity Security Is An Important Recommendation: “Identity security was one of our most important recommendations because the 19 hijackers had 30 state-issued IDs, at least seven of which were obtained by fraud. Most important, they used the IDs to assimilate into the United States and to board planes on Sept. 11, 2001.” (John Lehman, “An Identity Crisis We Can Ease,” [Washington Post](#), 5/08/2007)

REAL ID Can Prevent Terrorists From Obtaining Identification: “The goal of the law is simple: to make it much less likely that in the future, a McVeigh, Jarrah or Hanjour would be able to use a fraudulently obtained identification to commit mass murder. (The Washington Times Editorial, “Real facts on REAL ID,” The Washington Times, 4/21/2008)

REAL ID Means You Are Who You Say You Are: “The hijacker-pilot who flew into the Pentagon, Hani Hanjour, had a total of four driver's licenses and ID cards from three states. Secure and protected identification is critical in our efforts to keep our country and its citizen's safe...From a law enforcement perspective, the concept here gives us that much more confidence that the identification we are looking at is authentic – that you are in fact who you say you are. It provides one more tool to ensure public safety.” (Michael J. Bouchard, President of the Major County Sheriffs Association, Major County Sheriffs Association News Release, 1/11/2008)

REAL ID Is The Right Answer: “REAL ID is the right answer at the right time. The law does not give government more access to personal information, nor does it create a national database. In fact, the law adds privacy protections by requiring more security and background check for government employees who handle personal data.” (Heritage Foundation Senior Fellow James Carafano, “The Real Importance of Real ID: A Strategy for Saving the Secure Driver's License Initiative, Heritage Foundation, 5/04/2007)

REAL ID Does Not Infringe On Privacy Rights: “This legislation does not infringe on the privacy rights of any U.S. citizen, nor is it a “national identification card,” nor does it create a national database of drivers' licenses. In fact, the model used by the REAL ID Act already exists for commercial drivers' licenses. It is a common sense system that takes the right approach to ensuring the security and authenticity of the most commonly used identity document in the United States—a drivers' license.” (Chuck Canterbury, President, Fraternal Order of Police, “Letter to Majority Leader Reid on REAL ID Act,” Fraternal Order of Police, 2/21/2007)

The American Public Favors Real ID: According to a September 2007 Public Opinion Strategies survey of 800 adults, “82 percent of adults favor a nationwide program for new rules and regulations for state-issued driver's licenses or identification card designed to help prevent terrorism, identity theft and other crimes ... 91 percent of those polled strongly agreed that states should be required to meet national minimum standards for driver's licenses and IDs to make it harder for criminals to use fake IDs to commit crimes, such as identity theft. In other results, 89 percent of those polled would be willing to provide additional identification information to prove their identity for driver's licenses. Eighty-eight percent would be willing to pay additional cost for a new driver's license or other ID if it is more secure and resistant to identity theft and other fraud. Public Opinion Strategies Vice President Jim Burton said, “This is an issue that crosses party, ethnicity, age, region, education, and income lines. There is overwhelming support for new national rules and regulations regarding state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards designed to help prevent terrorism, identity theft and other crimes.” (“Survey Shows Public Support for Goals Similar to Real ID,” Government Technology, 9/24/2007)

DHS Listened: “Giving the states more time to comply with Real ID indicates DHS was listening to the concerns many states had. That flexibility will lighten some of the burden this act places on Nevada motorists.” (Ginny Lewis, Director, Nevada DMV, “Feds Grant Nevada Real ID Extension,” Nevada DMV News Release, 1/28/2008)

REAL ID Is A Necessity: Anyone who has read the 9/11 Commission report and understands the utility that the hijackers put to use these IDs would understand the necessity of the importance --and the importance of this program. Absolutely support it. (FBI Director Robert Mueller, “Congressional Testimony, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Holds Hearing on Terrorist Threats to the U.S.,” 9/10/2007)

Former 9/11 Commission Lawyer Calls Real ID Act Significant: A 23-page report released by Janice Kephart, a former lawyer with the 9/11 commission, defended the Real ID Act by saying “Without setting a foundation for identity security, the system is perpetually at risk of being taken advantage of for a multitude of bad purposes, including terrorist activity.” Kephart is now president of 9/11 Security Solutions. (Janice Kephart, “Identity and Security: Moving Beyond the 9/11 staff Report on Identity Document Security”) 9/11securityolutions.com, 2/2007)

Senator Elizabeth Dole Calls REAL ID Practical: “The REAL ID is a reasonable and practical tool to help improve the safety and security of all Americans.” (Senator Elizabeth Dole, “Dole Welcomes Standards for Secure Driver's License,” Press Release, 1/11/2008)

Congresswoman Barbara Cubin Sets The Record Straight: “The federal REAL ID program merely establishes a minimum national standard for physical and identity security that states may or may not elect to accept,” Cubin explained. “First, the new driver's license will require no additional information that is not already required to apply for or renew a driver's license. Instead, it only strengthens state governments' ability to ensure that applicants are, in fact, who they say they are. Second, the new driver's licenses will allow state and federal law enforcement to check the authenticity of a license, but will not grant access to state databases of private information.” (Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, “Cubin Clears the Air on REAL ID,” Press Release, 2/23/2007)

Spending The Resources Is Imperative: "A driver's license is like a master key that can grant broad access by unlocking multiple doors," North Carolina State Auditor Les Merritt said. "It is absolutely imperative to spend the resources to get a reliable database going forward and clean up all licenses that have been improperly issued." (Gary Robertson, “Audit: 27,000 DMV applicants had invalid Social Security numbers, NC”, The AP, 3/20/2007)

REAL ID Is Clear, Reasonable and Responsible: “In these regulations, the Department appears to have set a clear, reasonable and responsible destination, which the majority of people support - secure IDs that protect personal privacy. The Administration has followed through on critical recommendations from the 9/11 commission. Now it’s time for more state leaders to chart their courses and for Congress to help them get there.” (Phil Bond, CEO, Information Technology Association of America, “ITAA Applauds DHS Rules to Strengthen Security of Driver’s Licenses,” ITAA Press Release, 1/11/2008)

REAL ID Helps Protect The Homeless Against Identity Theft: “REAL ID standards have a critical impact on many of the ailments that plague the homeless, as many homeless are victimized by identity thieves who fraudulently obtain drivers’ licenses using the names and social security numbers of the homeless who are often unaware their identities have been stolen. These identity thieves then fraudulently purchase guns, hide from law enforcement, and even steal public benefits from the homeless, further compounding their plight. REAL ID will force the states to clean up their act and cease wholesale ID card issuance.” (Henry Buhl, Founder, Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless, “New Regulations Will Set Federal Security Standards for State Issuance of Driver’s Licenses and Identity Cards,” Coalition for a Secure Driver’s License, Drug Free America Foundation and Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless Joint Press Release, [Reuters](#), 1/11/2008)