



April 2, 2020

COPY

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to protect the health of the American people. Your leadership at this trying time is greatly appreciated.

We are pleased with the number of burdensome, costly regulations that you have lifted for the purpose of making the entire health care system function more efficiently, effectively and freely. It is our hope that many of these costly regulations can be lifted permanently.

Mr. President, while we are thankful to see the REAL ID enforcement deadline pushed to Oct. 21, 2021, we think this is an opportunity for you to postpone the REAL ID deadline **permanently**.

REAL ID language was amended to a bill in the dark of the night on the floor of the U.S. Senate in 2005. Senator Lamar Alexander, in opposition to it, called it a “national ID.”

Many states refused to implement it, citing states’ rights under the 10th Amendment. But once the previous administration started to threaten Americans with not being able to fly, state legislators began to acquiesce. Their constituents wanted to fly and virtually no one, including state and national news media outlets, told Americans that the TSA has a list of other approved identification options, including passports, passport cards and enhanced driver’s licenses.

As a result, most states are now issuing this national ID to their residents, and charging taxpayers millions of dollars to do it.

As we face the coronavirus situation, Americans have been given a rare opportunity to look at how China is using a national ID to control and track its population. According to *The Wall Street Journal*,¹ China is using the national ID (embedded in cell phones) as an identifier to track each person, in combination with more than 300 million surveillance cameras, and an army of drones.

This is not the American way—the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights limit government power over the people—but federal imposition of REAL ID and the growing embrace of digital IDs by state officials are eroding these rights and enabling surveillance on American citizens.

If the REAL ID becomes ubiquitous nationwide, we believe greater incursions of personal freedom will occur. Under the federal REAL ID law, the Secretary of Homeland Security (not the president, not Congress) has unilateral authority to expand the required uses of REAL ID beyond commercial

flights, federal buildings and nuclear facilities to “other official purposes.” These could include access to medical care (i.e. “**no card, no care**”), staying at a hotel, opening a bank account, buying a gun and more:

*“OFFICIAL PURPOSE - The term ‘official purpose’ includes but is not limited to accessing Federal facilities, boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft, entering nuclear power plants, and **any other purposes that the Secretary shall determine.**” [Emphasis added.]*

*“Beginning 3 years after the date of the enactment of this division, a Federal agency may not accept for **any official purpose**, a driver’s license or identification card issued by a State to any person unless the State is meeting the requirements of this section.”² [Emphasis added.]*

As President of the United States, you have the power to stop REAL ID. All power to implement REAL ID is in the hands of the administration. You can require acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf to rescind all associated rules, deadlines, and penalties.

Too often, emergencies are used to expand government power over the people, violating their constitutional rights to freedom of movement, freedom of choice, and freedom from surveillance. That is how the REAL ID Act was passed – in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

But Mr. President, a national ID cannot keep us safe or secure. It is a major expansion of government power over the people. It will advance surveillance, federal tracking of movement and purchases, and eliminate the security that Americans have *because* they are free.

Our Specific Request:

Discontinue enforcement of REAL ID, and move to rescind its rules, deadlines and penalties.

Mr. President, thank you for your consideration of this important request. Thank you again for everything you’ve already done to restore freedom and lift regulatory burdens across America. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information or with any questions.

Sincerely,



Twila Brase, RN, PHN
President and Co-founder

¹ “China Deploys Drones, Citizens and Big Data to Tackle Coronavirus,” The Wall Street Journal, March 5, 2020: <https://www.wsj.com/video/china-deploys-drones-citizens-and-big-data-to-tackle-coronavirus/40590C07-FB56-46CE-8C25-72471A5ECD39.html>.

² REAL ID Act - Title II, H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005.” <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/real-id-act-text.pdf>.