

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
6595 Springfield Center Drive
Springfield, Virginia 20598

Missing date... postmarked May 9th, 2025

Twila Brase, RN, PHN
President
Citizens' Council for Health Freedom
161 Rondo Avenue
Suite 923
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear President Brase:

Thank you for your letter to President Trump, requesting the rescinding of the recent final REAL ID rule, as well as the January 29, 2008, DHS rule: "Minimum Standards for Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards Acceptable by Federal Agencies for Official Purposes." We appreciate hearing your views on this issue. The White House referred your letter to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for review, and we are pleased to respond.

The REAL ID Act was enacted by Congress following the 9/11 attacks in response to security vulnerabilities highlighted by these attacks. The goal was to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prevent terrorists and other bad actors from using fraudulent identification to access federal facilities such as airports by requiring stricter verification of identity when issuing licenses, making difficult for someone to obtain a fake ID to board a plane or enter certain government buildings. Identity verification is foundational to security.

Congress reiterated its support of the security benefits of REAL ID by passing the REAL ID Modernization Act in 2020. The REAL ID Modernization Act updated the REAL ID Act to reflect the current operating environment and capabilities that did not exist more than 15 years earlier when the law was enacted. The legislation included several provisions that better facilitated the issuance and acceptance of REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards, after DHS issued implementing regulations as necessary, and authorized state-issued mobile or digital driver's licenses. Mobile driver's licenses have significant security, privacy, and interoperability features over physical credentials that can better help protect citizens.

REAL ID is a national set of minimum standards for identification issued by states and accepted by federal agencies for official purposes, not a national identification card. REAL ID cards are state-issued identification cards, and the REAL ID program does not create a federal database of driver license information. Each state jurisdiction continues to issue its own unique license, maintains its own records, and controls who gets access to those records and under what circumstances. The purpose of REAL ID is to make state-issued identity documents accepted by federal agencies for official purposes more consistent and secure.

"[A] database of this type will open up many privacy concerns and there must be security safeguards in place to prevent the gathered information from being obtained inappropriately." - Sen. Chafee, 2005 Senate debate

DHS has unilateral authority to expand "official purposes"

DHS could mandate access.

"This really is a national identification card for the United States of America for the first time in our history..."
- U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), 5/10/2005

Slipped into a must-pass defense bill: "There never was a hearing in the Senate of any kind." - Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) [1]

The 9/11 hijackers did not rely on fake driver's licenses, they used valid passports & IDs.

Invalid rationale for violating the 10th Amendment.

under federal control

These were FBI and CIA failings, per OIG report [2]

Under federalism, Congress cannot "authorize" what licenses states can issue.

12/5/23: AAMVA testified to Congress of DMV plans to digitize the REAL ID, put it on phones, and have remote access, worsening personal privacy and security

and ends May 5th, 2027

Phased in [3]

REAL IDs will not stop American jihadis or other criminals

Full enforcement of REAL ID began on May 7, 2025. Congress passed the REAL ID Act twenty years ago, in 2005, and this Administration intends to fully implement the law in order to ensure American citizens can travel safely and securely. Therefore, every air traveler 18 years of age and older must have a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

The REAL ID is an unconstitutional internal passport

TSA will enforce REAL ID in a manner that minimizes the impact to overall operations and especially for those passengers who are prepared with their REAL ID-compliant state-issued ID, passport, or other acceptable form of ID. Currently over 80% of passengers are using a REAL ID or other acceptable form of identification. This change will impact a small number of passengers. Further, additional TSA staff will be deployed across America's airports to engage and assist travelers in need of assistance throughout this transition.

The violation of state and individual rights will impact every passenger and every American.

TSA will not deny entry to the sterile area if passengers do not have an acceptable form of ID. Passengers without a REAL ID-compliant state-issued ID or another acceptable form of ID, such as a passport, will be notified of their non-compliance and may be directed to a separate screening area designed for those without a REAL ID. These procedures can take additional time, and may vary based on local technology, staffing, and operational capabilities. TSA advises travelers with non-compliant ID to arrive at least two hours prior to boarding to accommodate potential delays.

the violation of their rights.

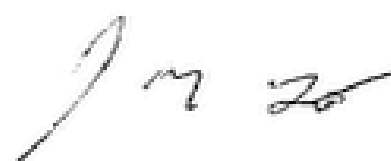
REAL ID enhances aviation security by improving the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents. The threat articulated by the 9/11 Commission continues to be credible, and robust identity management is required to bolster transportation security nationwide.

a National ID system

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

President Trump

Sincerely,



John "Neal" Latta
Assistant Administrator
Enrollment Services and Vetting Programs

Why does this letter not respond to the statements in CCHF's letter to President Trump related to the violation of the 4th and 10th Amendment? (as also stated by concerned members of the U.S. Senate in 2005?)[4]

[1] <https://thehill.com/homenews/news/12183-lamar-seeing-chance-to-nix-real-id-act/>

[2] <https://oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/archive/special/0506/chapter5.htm#:~:text=We%20examined%20the%20information%20that,regarding%20the%20September%2011%20plot.>

[3] <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/14/2025-00484/minimum-standards-for-drivers-licenses-and-identification-cards-acceptable-by-federal-agencies-for>

[4] <https://www.congress.gov/109/crec/2005/05/10/CREC-2005-05-10-senate.pdf>