



March 21, 2017

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent by email: Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>

Re: HB 74, Concerning the Federal REAL ID Act – Oppose

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

I write today on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a non-profit civil liberties organization based in San Francisco. Founded in 1990, EFF has over 36,000 members, including thousands in California.

EFF has long opposed the REAL ID Act of 2005, which seeks to create the functional equivalent of a national ID system by coercing states and their DMVs into sharing sensitive personal information about driver's license holders with other governments through a multi-state "hub" operated by ostensibly private entities such as the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA).

In the years since REAL ID became law, the federal government has repeatedly vacillated about how REAL ID should be implemented, without meaningful transparency about its data-sharing practices and economic costs to states.

Alaska now faces another renewed federal push to coerce smaller states into compliance. But the case for REAL ID compliance remains far from transparent; as Rep. Chris Tuck's questions to the Commissioner demonstrate, Alaskans do not know the likely actual effects of HB 74 on the state budget and on the sharing of their DMV-held data.

For instance, Rep. Tuck notes that the state has "asserted that Alaskans' data will not be entered into any outside database." Yet he also notes "the AAMVA newsletter reported this month that Alaska had joined AAMVA's S2S verification service," and he is concerned that "that use of S2S requires that states upload licensing data to a database known as SPEXS."

So long as these simple but crucial factual questions about REAL ID compliance remain outstanding, it would be irresponsible for Alaska to even consider HB 74.

Sincerely,
Lee Tien
Senior Staff Attorney and Adams Chair for
Internet Rights
Electronic Frontier Foundation