

# ALASKA AFL-CIO

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The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Chairman  
Alaska House State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol, Room 120  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Kreiss-Tomkins and members of the House State Affairs Committee:

**The Alaska AFL-CIO is urging you to support HB 74, the Real ID bill.**

We know this bill is complicated. Many people have relevant questions about how to implement this bill while protecting Alaskans' privacy.

The Administration secured a waiver from the Homeland Security Administration (HSA) allowing Alaskans to access military bases and other federal facilities using non-compliant Alaskan ID. If HB 74 fails to pass the Legislature this session, Alaska's waiver will expire on June 8, 2017. HSA has strongly indicated Alaska will not be granted an additional waiver unless legislation is passed this session.

The REAL ID Act enforcement timeline is as follows:

- Military bases: As of June 8, 2017, Alaska licenses and ID card will not get you on base, unless Alaska is granted another Homeland Security waiver.
- Air travel: As of January 22, 2018, Alaska driver licenses and ID cards will not get you through TSA screening and onto the plane, unless Alaska is granted another Homeland Security waiver.
- As of October 1, 2020, all domestic air travel will require REAL ID cards or other federally- approved identification. All waivers will be terminated.

These are real consequences for working Alaskans, particularly those who need to access federal properties for work, or who have to board commercially operated airlines subject to TSA guidelines, whether traveling for business or pleasure. And it is why this bill should be passed this session. We are out of time.

The primary concerns we have heard revolve around whether Alaskans' information will be compromised or end up in new or shared national databases. These are valid concerns. We urge you to amend the bill to address such concerns, as has been done in the Committee Substitute (CS) for SB 34, the companion bill in the Senate.

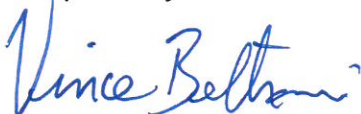
The aforementioned CS appears to have garnered the tacit support of the American Civil Liberties Union and others. And according to the information put out by Governor Walker's administration, neither the legislation or the federal REAL ID Act create new national databases. All information will be kept in state with strict limitations to protect and keep data confidential and private, as required under AS 28.15.181(f), which limits the disclosures in AS 28.10.505. Authorization for releasing information can only come from:

- By subpoena for a court case;
- Discovery for an administrative hearing;
- Request from law enforcement/government agency for official purposes;
- By request/authorization of the record holder/document owner to themselves and/or an authorized recipient(s).

**These restrictions, in conjunction with the type of amendments included in the CS for SB 34 adequately address privacy concerns in our opinion. Most importantly, we encourage legislators to ACT NOW! Alaskan workers and travelers will be unnecessarily burdened, whether trying to access their job, or freely traveling via commercial airlines, if you fail to come up with an adequate solution.**

**And one final point for high consideration; this program will be completely VOLUNTARY. No Alaskan will be forced to participate if they choose not to. Please pass HB 74 this session.**

Respectfully,



Vince Beltrami  
President  
Alaska AFL-CIO