

ALASKA AFL-CIO

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Executive President



JIM DUNCAN
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April 5, 2017

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

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

The Alaska AFL-CIO is requesting that you move HB 74, the Real ID Bill from committee.

I have been informed through Senator Murkowski's office that the Federal Real ID Act will not be overturned and there will be no additional waiver beyond June 8, 2017 if this bill is not passed. With President Trump's stand on immigration, it is highly unlikely he would support overturning the REAL ID Act which is seen as one of the main tools for dealing with illegal immigration.

The failure to pass Real ID can and will have negative consequences for working Alaskans. Failure to act on this bill will cause unnecessary hardship for many Alaskans trying to get to and from work. Failure to pass this bill will make it harder for Alaskans to travel with out hassle. I am sorry but, as suggested at your April 4th Hearing, I find it a lot more invasive of my privacy to be unnecessarily groped by a TSA Agent at the airport than to give out enough information to get a Real ID Card.

Yes, getting a passport is an option, but not a good one for many of us. It is time-consuming, cumbersome and expensive. I know personally I would not have one if it weren't for someone else going through most of the hassle. If a passport is lost or stolen you could be stopped from going to work for weeks and travel would be a hassle while waiting for a replacement, instead of just going to DMV and getting a usable paper copy. Renewal time when the passport is about to expire is another issue. and you have to send in the old one to get the new one. You have to figure what month or two you don't go to work or travel while waiting for the renewal passport rather than just going through DMV where you can obtain a valid usable card the same day.

Alaskans freely give out their information everyday to get loans to buy homes, cars, boats. We also give it to get a credit card, open bank accounts, to get health and life insurance as well as providing personal information to have your taxes done. Mr. Chairman and Members of the House State Affairs Committee, the Alaska AFL-CIO respectfully request that you give Alaskans **the choice** to freely give out their own information to get a Real ID if they so choose.

PLEASE PASS HB74 THIS SESSION.

Sincerely,

Don Etheridge
Lobbyist
Alaska AFL-CIO