

Dear President Trump,

We, the undersigned state legislators from both major political parties, write to alert you to the impending security and privacy disaster that is the final stage of REAL ID compliance and to ask for your quick action via executive order to preserve the safety and liberty of all Americans.

It won't surprise you that actions of prior Administrations may undermine the privacy and security of Americans on your watch. The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 directed the states to upgrade driver licenses with certain security measures, but it did something very dangerous too. It directed the states to create multi-million dollar databases to warehouse the most sensitive personal information of the citizenry including birth certificates and other key identifying documentation for the federal government to be able to snoop through.

In essence, the federal REAL ID Act mandates that states create **one-stop shops for identity theft**. Given the modern reality of data breaches and hostile hacking, it is madness for the federal government to require states to upload the citizenry's most precious identifying information in centralized and linked database systems.

States across the country from Maine to South Carolina to Alaska refused to comply, citing our very real privacy and security concerns. Consequently, the Department of Homeland Security in 2016 resorted to the worst sort of blackmail – notifying states like ours that our citizens would not be able to enter federal buildings or board airplanes until our states submitted to the federal requirements to warehouse our citizens' personal data. For example, your DHS is currently carrying out the prior Administration's actions and denying citizens of Maine access to federal buildings. Time is of the essence. Citizens in some states are being denied access to federal buildings now and may be banned from flying as early as 2018.

We urge you to fix this privacy and security nightmare. Please issue an executive order directing the Department of Homeland Security to allow the citizens of all states to enter federal buildings and board airplanes as they have been able to do until this point. If a fix or repeal of the federal REAL ID law is also necessary, please direct Congress to remove the anti-privacy portions of the law to ensure that no future Administration goes down this dangerous path.

Please protect the liberty and security of all American citizens. Let our people fly. Repeal the draconian REAL ID provisions as soon as possible. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Sen. Eric Brakey (R-Auburn)  
Sen. Shenna Bellows (D-Manchester)