

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SJUD 12556

**Exhibit 1**

**State of Alaska  
Teachers' Retirement System  
June 30, 2007**

**Employer Contributions For Members Hired After June 30, 2006 (In thousands)**

Fiscal Year	DCR Payroll	DCR Employer Contributions	DB/DCR Choice - Portion of Hires after June 30, 2006 electing the DB Plan			
			25%	50%	75%	100%
FY09	\$ 80,113	\$ 9,253	\$ 8,746	\$ 8,172	\$ 7,529	\$ 6,818
FY10	128,722	14,867	14,053	13,130	12,097	10,954
FY11	176,915	20,434	19,315	18,045	16,626	15,055
FY12	225,214	26,012	24,588	22,972	21,165	19,166
FY13	275,200	31,786	30,045	28,070	25,862	23,420
FY14	327,216	37,793	35,724	33,376	30,750	27,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,213,380</b>	<b>\$ 140,145</b>	<b>\$ 132,471</b>	<b>\$ 123,765</b>	<b>\$ 114,029</b>	<b>\$ 103,259</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Cost</b>			<b>\$ (7,674)</b>	<b>\$ (16,380)</b>	<b>\$ (26,116)</b>	<b>\$ (36,886)</b>

This is an attachment to a letter dated February 1, 2008.

**Exhibit 2**

**State of Alaska  
Public Employees' Retirement System  
June 30, 2007**

**Employer Contributions for Members Hired after June 30, 2006 (in thousands)**

**DB/DCR Choice - Portion of Hires after June 30, 2006 electing the DB Plan**

Fiscal Year	DCR Payroll		DCR Employer Contributions		25%		50%		75%		100%	
	State	Non-State Employers	State	Non-State Employers	State	Non-State Employers	State	Non-State Employers	State	Non-State Employers	State	Non-State Employers
FY09	\$ 136,706	\$ 138,213	\$ 13,208	\$ 13,351	\$ 13,640	\$ 13,790	\$ 13,958	\$ 14,112	\$ 14,159	\$ 14,315	\$ 14,245	\$ 14,402
FY10	213,274	215,624	20,602	20,829	21,279	21,514	21,775	22,015	22,090	22,333	22,223	22,468
FY11	289,598	292,791	27,975	28,284	28,895	29,213	29,568	29,894	29,995	30,326	30,176	30,509
FY12	365,528	369,557	35,310	35,699	36,471	36,873	37,320	37,732	37,860	38,277	38,068	38,508
FY13	442,488	447,365	42,744	43,215	44,149	44,636	45,178	45,676	45,831	46,336	46,107	46,615
FY14	521,219	526,965	50,350	50,905	52,005	52,578	53,216	53,803	53,965	54,560	54,311	54,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,968,813</b>	<b>\$ 1,990,515</b>	<b>\$ 190,187</b>	<b>\$ 192,283</b>	<b>\$ 196,439</b>	<b>\$ 198,604</b>	<b>\$ 201,015</b>	<b>\$ 203,232</b>	<b>\$ 203,920</b>	<b>\$ 206,167</b>	<b>\$ 205,150</b>	<b>\$ 207,412</b>
<b>Increase / (Decrease) in Cost</b>					<b>\$ 6,252</b>	<b>\$ 6,321</b>	<b>\$ 10,828</b>	<b>\$ 10,949</b>	<b>\$ 13,733</b>	<b>\$ 13,884</b>	<b>\$ 14,983</b>	<b>\$ 15,129</b>

This is an attachment to a letter dated February 1, 2008.

## **Allison Blastock**

---

**From:** Shay Wilson  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 11:39 AM  
**To:** Allison Blastock  
**Subject:** New Pom:Housing

Bonny Lynn Babb  
1818 Arctic Blvd

Anchorage 99503-1812,

907-272-7010  
same

I'm not good with computers. The message has disappeared. Hope you received----

Please fund HB324. The Housing Trust can fund Housing First for the chronically homeless inebriates. Program reduces drain and cost to the hospitals and police departments, besides being effective.

ANCHORAGE HAS NO DETOX! All programs require detox first.

**ALASKA PUBLIC  
PENSION COALITION**

**TESTIMONY ON**

**SB 183**

**“AN ACT REPEALING THE DEFINED  
CONTRIBUTION PLAN FOR TEACHERS  
AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES”**

# Members of the Alaska Public Pension Coalition?

National Education Association-Alaska

Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA/AFSCME Local 52)

Alaska Public Employees Association (APEA/AFT)

Alaska AFL-CIO

Anchorage Police Department Employees Association

Anchorage Professional Firefighters Local 1264

Alaska Professional Firefighters Association

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 1547)

Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA/AFSCME Local 803)

National Public Pension Coalition

Retired Public Employees of Alaska (RPEA/APEA/AFT)

Alaska Retired Educators Association

AARP ALASKA

Alaska Center for Public Policy

Teamsters Local 959

Public Employees Local 71/LIUNA

# Why the Alaska Public Pension Coalition opposes the DC plan.

- Does not provide a secure pension on retirement!
- Inadequate medical coverage for retirees!
- Inability to recruit and retain public employees!
- No overall cost savings in moving from DB (TRS Tier II or PRS Tier III) to DC Plan!

# **A Defined Contribution System does not provide a secure pension**

- **National Studies (Wharton School of Business 2004) show that more than 2/3 of DC plan participants cashed out their account when terminating employment leaving them with little or no funds for retirement.**
- **National Studies (Center for Retirement Research, Boston College 2006) show the median 401 (K) fund balances with household heads age 55-64 was \$60,000.**
- **Which means \$400 a month annuity income over their lifetime.**

# **A Defined Contribution System does not provide a secure pension**

- **There is no Post Retirement Pension Adjustment which helps keep up with the cost of inflation.**
- **Teachers and most Public Employees in the DC plan unlike private sector employees will not receive social security and therefore have no defined benefit plan.**

# Inadequate Medical Coverage for Retirees

- Retirees under the DC plan will not have a good medical plan to cover medical expenses.
- Must retire directly from state service to access medical benefit
- With 10 years of service access to medical coverage at Medicare eligible age or any age with 25 years of service for peace officers and firefighters or 30 years of service for all others
- May use health reimbursement account (HRA) to pay premiums – but once that is gone the retiree must self-pay the premium

# Inadequate Medical Coverage for Retirees

- Retiree must pay 100% of the premiums of the plan until eligible for Medicare
- Upon reaching Medicare eligibility the retiree must pay 10% to 30% of the premiums depending on the years of service. Must work 30 years to pay just 10%
- The state may terminate the retiree medical plan at any time
- So for retirees under the DC plan – no decent medical benefit – if any at all

# Inability to Recruit and Retain Public Employees

The DC Plan encourages public employees to move on to other employers

Even the Division of Retirement and Benefits encourages this in their promotion on their website of the DC Plan.

# Inability to Recruit and Retain Public Employees

## R & B website excerpts promoting DC Plan

- Get it to Go
- Your savings move right along with you as you blaze your career trail
- We have made the new retirement plan just as modern and mobile as our most adventurous Alaska employees
- When you are ready to move on, just take your savings with you
- When you change employers, move your savings, or take your money with you

## State of Alaska Employee Movement Report for Calendar Year 2006 prepared by the Division of Personnel shows increasing problems with recruitment and retention

- Noticeable changes in employee movement since the 2005 report
- The turnover rate has increased and continues to be higher than the hire rate by 3%
- The turnover rate in 2005 was 24% and exceeded the hire rate of 22%
- The turnover rate in 2006 for the Executive Branch is 29% and exceeds the hire rate of 26%
- The department with the highest turnover rate is Public Safety at 40%

An analysis of General Government Unit Employees prepared by ASEA shows that in 2007 the turnover rate for employees with under 2 years of service is 30% and drops to 23 % from 2 to 5 years

# **No overall cost savings in moving from DB (TRS Tier II, PERS Tier III) to DC**

**Buck Consultants in February 11, 2008 analysis  
to Division of Retirement and Benefits shows:**

- **The TRS Tier 2 DB Plan costs less (3%) than  
the Tier 3 DC Plan**
- **The PRS Tier 3 DB Plan costs slightly more  
(3/4 of a percent) than the Tier 4 DC plan**

# The DC Plan is not working for Alaska and its Public Employees

- Does not provide a secure pension on retirement!
- Inadequate medical coverage for retirees!
- Inability to recruit and retain public employees!
- No overall cost savings in moving from DB (FRS Tier II, PERS Tier III) to DC!

# **A Defined Benefit Plan Works Best for the State of Alaska and its Public Employees**

- **A stable pension that will enable retirees to stay in Alaska**
- **A medical plan that will enable retirees to meet their medical needs**
- **The ability to recruit employees and encourage them to make public service in Alaska their career**
- **And a Defined Benefit Plan does all this at less cost overall than the Defined Contribution Plan**

# **The Alaska Public Pension Coalition**

**National Education Association-Alaska**

**Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA/AFSCME Local 52)**

**Alaska Public Employees Association (APEA/AFT)**

**Alaska AFL-CIO**

**Anchorage Police Department Employees Association**

**Anchorage Professional Firefighters Local 1264**

**Alaska Professional Firefighters Association**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 1547)**

**Public Safety Employees Association/AFSCME Local 803**

**National Public Pension Coalition**

**Retired Public Employees of Alaska**

**Alaska Retired Educators Association**

**AARP ALASKA**

**Alaska Center for Public Policy**

**Teamsters Local 959**

**Public Employees Local 71/LIUNA**

**Urges You To Support SB 183!**

**SUPPORT SB 183**

**REPEALING**

**THE**

**DEFINED CONTRIBUTION**

**PLAN**

**FOR TEACHERS**

**AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**SB**

**185**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



## SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

February 19, 2008

Senator Hollis French, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 417  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator French:

I am writing to request a hearing on Senate Bill 185, "An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers."

Senate Bill 185 will require sex offenders and child kidnappers to register their e-mail addresses, instant messaging addresses and any other internet communication identifiers with the Alaska Department of Public Safety. This legislation will provide parents and law enforcement agencies with an important tool to respond to the growing menace of internet predation.

I intend to request that representatives from law enforcement agencies, the appropriate departments and from legislative legal services be present to answer any questions that may arise. Further, I would like to allow public testimony to be taken statewide by electronic means.

Included with this letter you will find the latest version of this bill, a Sponsor Statement, and other background materials.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski".

Senator Bill Wielechowski

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Session*  
State Capitol, Rm. 115  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-2435  
Fax: (907) 465-6615

*Interim*  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste. 540  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-0120  
Fax: (907) 269-0122



Co-chair  
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member  
Resources Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Transportation Committee

Senator\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

## SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

### Senate Bill 185

**"An Act relating to sex offenders and child kidnappers."**

### Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 185 will help prevent online sexual predators from preying on children or anyone else by requiring convicted sex offenders and child kidnappers to register their e-mail addresses, instant messaging addresses and any other internet communication identifiers with the Alaska Department of Public Safety. Currently sex offenders in Alaska must register their home address and place of employment with the Department's publicly searchable online database. This would be another category of information to be added to that database. Requiring sex offenders to register their online identities gives parents, kids, and law enforcement a new and effective weapon to repel internet predators.

In the future, data generated under this bill may be used by internet service providers and internet security firms to prevent children from receiving messages from convicted sex offenders or warn parents of the sender's status. In order for these services to be developed, states must take the first step and make the data available.

The internet will likely never be a completely safe place, and parents need to take an active role in making sure their children use the internet responsibly. SB 185 merely gives us a new tool we can use to help protect our selves and our families.

I encourage you to support this legislation.

STATE OFFICE  
**ALASKA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 240106 Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0106 Phone (907) 277-0515 Fax (907) 272-5355



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Pres. Wrangell Chapter

Scott McCumby, Member  
Valdez  
Pres. Port of Valdez Chapter

January 24, 2008

Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol  
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I would like to thank you for introducing SB 185, an act relating to sex offenders and child kidnapers.

The APOA State Board's Legislative Committee recently reviewed this proposed legislation and decided to unanimously support this bill.

We thank you for addressing this issue. Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Angella Long  
State President

# AK Senate Bipartisan Working Group

Cowdery Davis Eills Elton French Green Hoffman Huggins Kookesh McGuire Olson Stedman Stevens  
Thomas Wielechowski

Today is Jan. 23rd



## Alaska State Legislature



Senator Bill Wielechowski

### Press Release • July 19, 2007

CONTACT: [Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us) • Room 115 Capitol Bldg. • (907) 485-2435

## ***Bill Prefiled for Upcoming Session Would Require Sex Offenders to Register e-mail Addresses***

**Helps Law Enforcement to Track Predators in Cyberspace**

(ANCHORAGE) – A bill to help prevent online sexual predators from preying on children or anyone else is being prepared by Sen. Bill Wielechowski (D – Anchorage) for the 2008 legislative session. The bill requires convicted sexual offenders and child kidnappers to register their e-mail addresses, instant messaging addresses or any other Internet communication identifiers with the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

“The Internet has become a hunting ground for sex offenders and they’re preying on our children,” said Wielechowski. “Nationwide, one in five children have been sexually solicited online; and Alaska has the highest rate of internet use per capita.”

The legislation also requires the sex offender or child kidnapper to notify the department in writing within five days of any changes to their e-mail address or identifier.

Arizona, Kentucky and Virginia already require sex offenders to register their e-mail addresses and at least a dozen other states are considering similar legislation. The popular networking site MySpace.com is on the record supporting this type of legislation.

Senator Wielechowski has pre-filed this legislation for the upcoming 2008 session.

For more information, contact Senator Wielechowski at (907) 269-0120.

###

- Print Forward this page
- [http://www.aksenate.org/wielechowski/071907\\_prefiled\\_bill\\_sex\\_offender\\_register.pdf](http://www.aksenate.org/wielechowski/071907_prefiled_bill_sex_offender_register.pdf)

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**America's Newspapers**

## **SEXUAL PREDATORS RIDE THE INTERNET INTO HOMES ACROSS AMERICA**

**Seattle Post-Intelligencer - May 6, 1997**

**Author: VANESSA HO, P-I Reporter**

When a Federal Way mother posed as a teenager online to catch her son's molester, she also put the spotlight on the problem of sexual predators finding victims on the Internet.

The Internet and online services offer instant access to the world, but authorities say that access has a price: It's an easy way for predators to enter the homes of teens and children, who think nothing of spending hours talking with strangers at their computer keyboards. Through the unreined world of chat rooms, predators lure children with promises of support, money and a new home, experts say. In some cases, they molest them, or exploit them with pornography; in other cases, teens run away to be with them.

"It's a systemic problem, it's very bad, and we in the FBI are taking it very seriously," said Larry Foust, spokesman for the FBI Baltimore division in Maryland, where an Internet-related abduction and murder of a child in 1993 prompted a national investigation into online pedophiles.

Investigators were shocked at how widespread the crimes were, Foust said. "And it was only the tip of the iceberg." So far, the investigation has resulted in 96 arrests for child pornography or for luring a child across state lines for illicit sex. There have been 89 convictions.

Foust said that in one case, two suspects not only lured children through the Internet and then molested them, but also took pictures of them to distribute online.

He said sexual predation on the Internet is worse than on the streets "because you can lock your door and stay inside, and they can still penetrate the sanctity of your house."

Millions of people use the Internet, and most do so with no problems, authorities say. But cases of online crimes serve as a reminders of danger:

In February, a man was arrested in California after communicating with a 13-year-old boy for three months and flying across the country to meet him for a sexual encounter.

In December, a Connecticut man was arrested after talking online with a 13-year-old girl, sending her indecent material and driving 100 miles to meet her for sex.

Last month, a 14-year-old girl from suburban Rochester, N.Y., returned home after disappearing for four months with a 22-year-old Air Force deserter she met in a chat room devoted to vampire fantasies.

In 1995, Daniel Montgomery, a 15-year-old Maple Valley boy, ran away for two weeks to San Francisco to meet someone he met online.

The growing number of cases also illuminates hurdles facing police agencies, which often lack resources and money to investigate online crimes.

"We see that this is a growing problem, and it's something we'll be dealing with more and more," said Casey Johnson, a detective with the King County police Special Assault Unit. "The problem is money and bodies."

In the Federal Way case, the mother, posing as a teenager, received sexually explicit messages from the man and an offer to meet face-to-face and have sex. When the meeting was arranged last month, an undercover police officer arrested him. The man, Otis Fellows, pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree child molestation, which stemmed from an incident in 1993. He faces sentencing on May 23.

Some online encounters between adults and children have resulted in heartache for parents, such as Kathy Newell of Eugene, Ore.

Last year, her 14-year-old daughter Channa befriended a 24-year-old woodworker in a chat room. A shaggy redhead who sometimes masqueraded as a medieval knight, the man came by to visit, and Newell said no way.

"I said, 'This girl is off-limits to you,'" she said. Her daughter didn't agree, and one morning last May, the man drove by Channa's high school, picked her up and disappeared.

"(Police) say she chose to go with him, but I say she was lured," Newell said.

At the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, "online luring" makes up a small part of the center's overall cases, but the problems are increasing, said Gary Costello, director of the child exploitation unit at the Arlington, Va.-based center, a national clearinghouse for parents whose children have run away or were abducted.

This year, the center has received 11 reports of online luring, in which a child ran away after meeting an adult in cyberspace. Last year, the center handled seven such cases.

Although some teens have voluntarily left home, Costello treats them as children who were lured, as opposed to children who ran away.

"If someone came into the neighborhood, ended up talking to a child, befriending them, enticing them with promises of money and a better life, would you treat the case any differently?" he asked.

Parents should take a greater interest in their children's computer activities, Costello said. Often, when children spend hours alone on a computer, parents have no idea who they are meeting.

"Picture it like this: Would you let your 9- to 14-year-old go to the worst part of Seattle and walk the streets in the middle of the night?"

"That's what chat rooms are like, but the child can't see who is walking toward him," he said.

Johnson, the detective with the King County police Special Assault Unit, said online predators often target emotionally vulnerable children, who come from unstable families and have low self-esteem. So when an adult offers support, money and a new home, the child is at a disadvantage.

"When you get an adult who is methodically pulling a child out of his home, for whatever reasons, that's exploitation," he said.

#### Tips for parents

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children offers these tips for parents to help children have safe cyber-chats.

Never give out personal information such as address, phone number or school name before verifying the receiver of the information.

Get to know the services your child uses. Learn how to log on. Find out what types of information the services offer and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.

Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. Make sure the first meeting is in a public spot and be sure to accompany the child.

Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening or make you feel uncomfortable. If you receive one, forward a copy to your service provider.

More of the center's tips can be found at its site: <http://www.missingkids.org/childsafety.html>

Another helpful Web site is <http://www.yahooligans.com/docs/safety>

America Online offers members resources on how to report a violation in a chat room and what to do if a harassing message is received.

It also offers "parental controls" that restrict a child's access, with the caveat: "It's important to note that no system of controls makes up for good old-fashioned parental supervision."

***Edition: Final***

***Section: News***

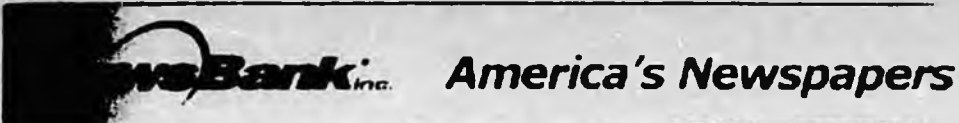
***Page: A1***

***Index Terms: TIPS, INTERNET, SEX CRIME, CHILDREN, SUMMARY, STATISTIC***

***Record Number: 9705060081***

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## **Cyber-stalking**

**Newr. & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) - July 30, 2007**

Child predators didn't spring up from the fertile soil of the Internet. Physical and sexual abuse of children are age-old problems. But the Internet has brought a whole new aspect to child predation.

Computers in the home are ubiquitous. Kids easily master the machines, and they find the technology inviting. Meanwhile, adults who make it their business to become experts at stalking children have discovered social networking sites that are popular with young people. Using the sites, stalkers can zero in on kids from several states away, in relative anonymity, rather than from the bench near the swing set at the neighborhood park.

If there were any questions about the extent of the problem, good work by state Attorney General Roy Cooper has pried loose an answer. To combat predators, Cooper and attorneys general from several other states asked one of the more popular social sites, MySpace, to reveal the names of sex offenders who use the site. MySpace reluctantly complied in May, reporting about 7,000 offenders across the country on the site (245 of them were sex offenders registered in North Carolina).

The company updated its list last week. It now says that more than 29,000 offenders have MySpace profiles. And MySpace is just one of several social sites. Two years ago, a 34-year-old former Wake County sheriff's deputy posed as a 19-year-old N.C. State University student on several sites, including MySpace. Today he is in prison for persuading two Triangle boys he met online, ages 14 and 15, to have sex with him.

The attorneys general are pressing for better regulation of the networking sites, both by the companies that operate them and in state law. Cooper wants North Carolina legislators to require parental permission for youngsters to create a profile. He combines that effort with an educational campaign showing parents and teachers how kids can surf the Web safely.

Cooper also is pushing a bill that would require convicted sex offenders who create profiles to provide authorities with their e-mail addresses and all other on-line identifiers. As it stands now, offenders must tell the public where they live and when they move to a new neighborhood. But they can mask themselves as a teen on the Internet and prey on youngsters with impunity. The bill deserves approval.

Some lawyers and online companies complain that Cooper's efforts endanger the First Amendment rights of corporations. So far there's no overreaching on the attorney general's part.

At the same time, Internet companies need to design their sites with the vulnerability of youngsters in mind. Sexual crimes and violence against kids have exploded as the Internet has matured.

If foot-dragging lawmakers need help deciding whether to vote for Cooper's initiative, here's an aid: Put Internet firms on one side of the scale, and vulnerable youngsters at risk of being sexually assaulted or killed by predators on the other. Cooper's instincts are right.

**Editor:** Final

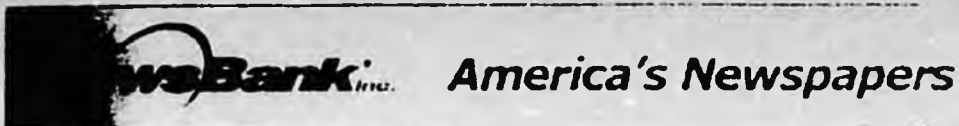
**Section:** Editorial/Opinion

**Page:** A8

**Index Terms:** CRIME ; CHILDREN ; TEEN ; NC ; BILL ; Internet ; Roy Cooper ; Editorial

**Record Number:** jiz6dp89

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**'THESE PREDATORS ARE NO LONGER ISOLATED'**

**Maine Sunday Telegram (Portland, ME) - October 11, 1998**

**Author: ERIC BLOM Staff Writer**

The Internet has become a refuge for child molesters, a place to seek shelter from the social isolation and anger they often confront in real life.

Known molesters can be threatened by neighbors, featured on police handbills when they move into a neighborhood, harassed by fellow prisoners in jail, and isolated by watchful parents who tell children not to talk with strangers on the street. Online, predators are safe in the anonymity of made-up screen names. They can identify and target children at will. Pedophiles can share encouragement, support and advice with one another, describing child sexual abuse as pleasurable and natural, even beneficial to children.

"These predators are no longer isolated. They're part of a community on the Internet," said Colin Gabriel Hatcher, executive director of Cyberangels, a division of the Guardian Angels.

The most direct threat to children is online predation. Adults with a sexual interest in children can identify, contact and groom potential victims via the Internet.

No one is sure how common online predation has become. It's clearly involved in a small minority of all child sexual assaults.

Still, advocates for children say that online predation represents an entirely new kind of threat and poses risks that are difficult to address. The danger is growing as more children, and more adults with a sexual interest in children, go online.

"It has provided a whole new, additional venue for (predators) to operate," said Peter Banks, director of training for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Child molesters go where the children are, and the children are in cyberville."

Online predation also may be much more common than is generally recognized, he and other advocates for children said.

The anonymity of computer networks, the secretive nature of child sexual predators and the shame felt by many victims conspire to keep formal complaints down and the activity hidden.

"The number of people who are arrested is a very small number compared to the number of offenders out there," said Capt. Richard Wallikas of the Broome County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Department, which has an ongoing undercover operation online.

Banks agreed that police complaints are a poor measure of the problem.

"We don't fully understand, because of the nature of sexual victimization, how big a problem this is," Banks said. "Probably only one in 10 crimes gets reported."

Indeed, many of the incidents thus far have been discovered almost by accident.

For example, in July, Massachusetts police discovered that a 37-year-old Michigan man had met at least

two teen-age girls -- from Massachusetts and Georgia -- online and traveled to have sex with them. The man was caught after a sheriff's deputy saw a 16-year-old girl, chased by her father, running toward the man's car with a suitcase. The deputy became suspicious and accosted the driver.

Increasingly, online predation also is being detected through electronic undercover police operations.

Most recently, on Sept. 14, police arrested a Portland man on charges of distributing child pornography to an undercover police detective in New Hampshire. The Keene, N.H., detective was posing as a 14-year-old boy.

Michael Weeks, 23, allegedly sent the detective photos depicting boys involved in sex acts, said Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood. Weeks also has been charged with molesting a 10-year-old Portland boy.

## INFORMATION HIGHWAY

### GETS THE WORD OUT

Direct contact between adult predators and children is not the only danger posed by online computer networks. Children also are threatened by the online communities that sexual predators are building on the Internet.

These burgeoning online pedophile networks indirectly threaten all children, not just those who use computers, said many advocates for children, federal police and social scientists.

Historically, shame and public condemnation have kept many pedophiles from assaulting children. Society uniformly condemns adult-child sex. Pedophiles seldom encounter other people who admit to a sexual desire for children, much less the illegal acts of raping, molesting or exploiting them.

"Traditionally, a good social control for pedophiles is condemnation," said Keith Durkin, a sociologist who has studied the use of online computers by pedophiles. "This has to be the most condemned form of human sexual behavior that there is "

The mainstream online community also condemns child molestation. Thousands of Web sites and forums have been established to fight the problem. Offenders' names are even being published on Web sites such as the one run by the Bangor Police Department.

However, in many other corners of the Internet, child molesters find advice and support that was not available to them prior to the growth of online computing.

"There's nothing to stop someone from advocating really horrible crimes against children" online, said Tracey O'Connell-Jay, executive director of WebWise Kids and the sister of a girl lured from home by an online predator in another state.

The Internet allows anyone to publish anything, of any length, for very little money. Freedom of speech is protected by the U.S. Constitution, even speech advocating child sexual abuse.

More than 8,000 sites on the World Wide Web encourage adults to have sex with children.

Some of these Web pages tell young people that they should never reveal their "secret" relationship with an adult. This is the opposite message from the one that child advocates say children need to hear. Other sites tell pedophiles how to locate school or playground addresses online before going away on vacation.

"These pages link to legitimate sites like Disney. Hello! If that doesn't raise red flags, I don't know what

will," said Debbie Mahoney, a California woman whose 12-year-old son was sexually assaulted by a man who later was charged with distributing child pornography online. Mahoney is founder of the advocacy group, Safeguarding Our Children -- United Mothers.

Newsgroups allow pedophiles from around the world to anonymously exchange messages of solace, share tips on how to lure children into sexual encounters and trade information on police strategies. Newsgroups are electronic bulletin boards where people from around the world post messages for others to read.

Durkin studied one such newsgroup in 1996 -- early in the growth of Internet popularity -- and found that it received about 200 new postings a month. He had no way to determine how many people read the postings without submitting their own messages.

Most of the people who posted articles admitted to being pedophiles. Many of their messages sought support from other newsgroup readers. A quarter of the users said they wanted to contact other pedophiles via telephone, mail, in-person meetings or electronic mail, Durkin found.

"Preferential child molesters who target boys have the capacity to victimize hundreds of young males," Durkin wrote in *Pedophiles in Cyberspace*, which is his article on the newsgroup. "If computer groups such as (this one) inspire only a few pedophiles to molest children, this would translate into hundreds -- even thousands -- of victims."

#### FINDING VALIDATION

#### FOR CRIMES, URGES

Other experts agree that propaganda advocating adult-child sex can increase the abuse of children.

"There's no crime in being a pedophile and suffering from those urges," said Douglas Rehman, a former Florida state police officer with extensive experience in online undercover operations.

"What you've got is people who have it under control before they get online and then they see there are all these other people with the same urges and interests."

Kenneth Lanning of the FBI Behavioral Science Unit explained the psychology behind this in his monograph, "Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis."

Many child molesters, he wrote, "spend their lives attempting to convince themselves that they are not immoral, not sexual deviants, or not criminals.

"They prefer to believe that they are high-minded, loving individuals whose behavior is misunderstood or politically incorrect at this time in history," Lanning wrote.

The Internet has made it possible for many more pedophiles to receive that kind of validation for their crimes from groups such as the North American Man Boy Love Association, or NAMBLA, which advocates adult-child sex.

"A group like NAMBLA now has an audience beyond its mailing list," Durkin said.

Literature from NAMBLA -- along with child pornography -- was found in the car allegedly used to transport 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley's body to the Great Works River in Maine after his murder and subsequent sexual assault last autumn. Charges are pending against two men in that case. It is not yet clear whether the material allegedly found in their possession came from the Internet or through the mail.

Still, material like the propoganda and pomography found in their vehicle is widely available online. And that material helps reduce the social control of shunning and shame that keeps many pedophiles from acting on their sexual impulses.

"These people who were hiding under a rock someplace are actively out there communicating with each other" and with children, Mahoney said.

**Memo:** The graphic accompanying this article HOW TO PROTECT CHILDREN must be read on microfilm

**Edition:** CITY

**Section:** FRONT

**Page:** 7A

**Series:** DANGER ONLINE Technology's threat to children

**Record Number:** 0002230511

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**SB**

**2022**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



**SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI**

February 19, 2008

Senator Hollis French, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 417  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator French:

I am writing to request a hearing on SB 202, "An Act relating to expenditures in aid of or to implement the provisions of the federal Real ID Act."

People all over the state are becoming increasingly concerned that Real ID is an attack not only on our state sovereignty, but on the rights and freedoms we all hold dear. Further, if we comply with this federal mandate we will have to expend millions of dollars in state funds that could otherwise be used to improve the lives of all Alaskans. We should not be forced to bear the costs of restricting our own cherished freedoms.

I intend to request that representatives from the appropriate state agencies and from legislative legal services be present to respond to any questions that may arise. Further, I would like to allow public testimony to be taken statewide by electronic means.

Included with this letter you will find the latest version of this bill, a Sponsor Statement, and other background materials.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski".

Senator Bill Wielechowski

**SB 202 – REAL ID**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**French, Huggins, McGuire, Wielechowski, Therriault**

**1:30 PM Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

**Beltz 211**

**Next Committees of Referral: Rules**

**Invited to Give Testimony**

**Jason Dowell – Chair, Alaska Libertarian Party**

**Harley Brown - Vice Chair, Alaska Libertarian Party**

**Jim Harrison – Anchorage Attorney**

**Bill Scannell—Activist**

**Scott McMurren—Anchorage Travel Columnist**

**Jeffrey Mittman – Concerned citizen – (can't make it, but wrote letter)**

**Tim Peters – Citizens Against Real ID**

**Numerous Fairbanks Residents**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Session*  
State Capitol, Rm. 115  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-2435  
Fax: (907) 465-6615

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716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ste. 540  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 269-0120  
Fax: (907) 269-0122



Co-chair  
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member  
Resources Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Transportation Committee

*Senator* Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

## SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

### Senate Bill 202

**"An Act relating to expenditures in aid of or to implement the provisions of the federal Real ID Act."**

### Sponsor Statement

The "Real ID Act" is a federal mandate that creates America's first national ID Card. This is a cause for alarm for many Alaskans and Americans, particularly since the federal government is attempting to interfere with the states' sovereignty, and force the states to implement the program through state-issued driver's licenses. Senate Bill 202 prohibits the use of state money to implement this program.

Many people are concerned that the "common machine-readable technology" required by the Real ID Act would convert state-issued drivers licenses and identification cards into tracking devices, allowing computers to note and record people's whereabouts each time they are identified. The Federal government could essentially track citizens' every movement. This is a major step towards creating a surveillance society.

The requirement that states maintain databases of information about their citizens and residents and then share this personal information with all other states will expose every state to the information security weaknesses of every other state and threatens the privacy of every American. States and local governments that contract with private corporations also allow those private organizations to obtain this information. Moreover, through national agreements with Canada and Mexico, those governments will also have access to every Americans' identification information. Essentially, every American's identity will be at risk of substantial threat of ID theft under Real ID.

The concern has also been raised that Real ID will be used as a backdoor attempt to institute a national gun registry. That is why many NRA members oppose Real ID.

The implementation of Real ID is one of the top issues that States all across the country have been addressing. Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington have all passed legislation opposing Real ID. Similar bills are pending in Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

It is time for Alaska to join the effort to stand up for state sovereignty and oppose Real ID. I encourage you to support this legislation.

By: Council Member Hilling  
Introduced: February 26, 2008 1

**RESOLUTION NO. 4262**

**RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE ALASKA STATE  
LEGISLATURE TO PROCLAIM OPPOSITION TO, AND  
PASS LEGISLATION AGAINST, THE FEDERAL "REAL  
ID" ACT OF 2005**

**WHEREAS**, a national ID system has been proposed by the federal government pursuant to Public Law 109-13, called the "Real ID" Act of 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, this system by 2008 will oblige the 50 states to unify all drivers licenses under certain requirements of content, formatting, recording and reporting; and

**WHEREAS**, at federal and state levels, costs are projected in the several billions of dollars in the near term; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bill of Rights states in the Tenth Amendment, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people" and in the Fourth Amendment, "The right of the people to be secure [from federal encroachment] ... shall not be violated"; and

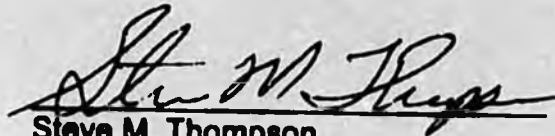
**WHEREAS**, such issues of states' rights, citizens' privacy, and limitation of federal power have prompted about a dozen states to have active legislation against "Real ID," while another dozen or so states are in process of either resolutions or legislation against its implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. Congress Sen. John Sununu of New Hampshire, along with Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, filed a bill last year to repeal the "Real ID" Act of 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, it behooves the City of Fairbanks and the Alaska State Legislature to participate in this groundswell of objection and opposition to incursion in our affairs by the federal government;

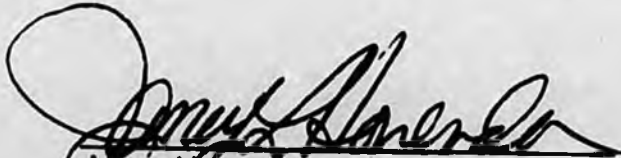
**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS** hereby places itself in solidarity with the above-mentioned states seeking abrogation of the "Real ID" Act of 2005, and petitions the Alaska State Legislature likewise to pass resolutions and/or laws to the end of protecting our state from such unconstitutional federal interference and incursion.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007.**



**Steve M. Thompson  
City of Fairbanks**

**ATTEST:**



**Janey Hovenden  
City Clerk**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



**Herbert P. Kuss  
City Attorney**



## America's Newspapers

### Opinion

**Anchorage Daily News (AK) - January 18, 2008**

**Author: Staff**

The answer is still no REAL ID remains a bad idea

Orwellian talk to the contrary, the REAL ID Act does give the United States its first national identification card. And it will create a national database of information about more than 240 million Americans.

Last week, Michael Chertoff, secretary of Homeland Security, unveiled revised rules for the REAL ID Act, which bombed beyond the Beltway after its passage in 2005. Seventeen states passed resolutions protesting it or prohibiting compliance. So Homeland Security tried to sweeten the deal by granting delays, slashing costs by a claimed 73 percent and exempting Americans 50 and older from carrying federally approved driver's licenses until 2017.

Red flag, citizens. If you can't peddle an idea without a fire sale and years of delay, it's probably not a good idea.

REAL ID requires the states to issue driver's licenses that comply with more rigorous federal rules for checking personal data and that have three layers of technical security to make counterfeiting harder. The law also requires each state database to connect with other state databases and federal databases so that information can be shared and checked.

By 2014, states would have to issue REAL ID licenses to all drivers born after Dec. 1, 1964. States could choose from a menu of high-tech safeguards to include in the card.

Last week's sweeteners came with a warning. Mr. Chertoff said the time for discussion and debate is over. States now must seek waivers for more time to comply with the act, or their licenses won't be valid ID for boarding airplanes or entering federal buildings.

And yet he claims the states aren't being coerced.

There remain two fundamental problems with REAL ID.

\* Americans have long and wisely rejected any sort of national identification card, particularly one that could be used to restrict our free passage among the states or collect information about us. REAL ID -- or any American's lack of REAL ID -- would do both.

Americans for generations have conceded the need for a reasonably functioning government to have certain information about us. Social Security requires it. Federal loans require it. So do military service and the census. Justice and security sometimes require it. We bear, sometimes with clenched teeth, the intrusion of baggage and body searches to board airplanes.

But Americans also have maintained that the ordinary commerce, relationships and comings and goings of law-abiding citizens are none of Uncle Sam's business.

With REAL ID, such could become an increasingly routine part of Uncle Sam's business.

\* Critics point out that REAL ID would not make us safer. It would not have stopped Timothy McVeigh, a homegrown terrorist, nor would it guarantee the apprehension of foreign-born terrorists like those who carried out the attacks of 9/11. It might provide a limited tool against illegal immigration, and, Mr. Chertoff argues, identity theft. But tech trackers insist shared database would increase opportunities for ID theft and other information hacking -- not to mention government-sanctioned invasions of privacy.

Paranoia? No, just knowledge of current events, given the Bush administration's determination to tap Americans' communications with no court oversight and no accountability.

If the states want to tighten their rules for driver's licenses and ID verification, fine. Some of the checks required by REAL ID are being done now -- Alaska, for example, double-checks given Social Security numbers.

And few Americans would have any problem with states sharing information with one another and the feds -- given just cause for doing so.

We want law enforcement on any level to have the means to protect us and catch the bad guys before they strike. That calls for precision, not a universal net that restricts our freedoms and threatens our privacy.

REAL ID doesn't need tweaking or more time. It needs repeal.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Homeland Security gives ground on cost and time, but REAL ID is a bad deal at any price, at any time.

Alaska notebook

Winter biker

Meet Nick Hardigg, winter bicycle commuter.

Age: "Still in his 30s" (but not for long).

Married, no kids. His wife is also a bike commuter.

Lives in: Turnagain.

Works in: Downtown.

Route: Coastal Trail to Second Avenue, then uphill.

Bike: A Marin hybrid (not a mountain bike; not a street bike), with studded tires. "It's not heavy and it's fast. You don't need some fat balloon tire to get around."

Typical winter riding outfit: Multiple layers, rain pants, rain jacket, face mask, wool mittens.

This is his second winter in Anchorage commuting on bike. He's used to cold weather -- he did four years with the National Park Service in Denali.

Advantages: Doesn't need to belong to a health club -- commuting is his daily exercise. He and his wife get by with just one car. That saves thousands of dollars a year.

Disadvantages: When it snows so much during the day he can't pedal the bike. Riding to work through unpacked snow, he may get to the office sweating like a horse, and there is no shower there.

**Moose encounters:** "I see one every three weeks or so on the Coastal Trail. Generally they move out of way."

**Near death experiences with Anchorage drivers:** None so far. His bike has "nice, powerful blinkers" and he just added a strobe light to be seen more easily.

**Take away message:** "I can't believe how easy it is. It's relaxing. I hate traffic. It's just fun."

-- Matt Zencey

**Caption:** Photo 1: Alaska Notebook\_011808.jpg

***Edition:*** Final

***Section:*** Nation World

***Page:*** B4

***Record Number:*** 1603685901/18/08

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**Local in brief**

**Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (AK) - February 28, 2007**

**Author: Staff Report**

Opposition registered to Real ID The Fairbanks City Council has registered concern with the government's progress in creating a national identification card system, and state lawmakers could soon consider a similar resolution.

The council approved a resolution aligning itself with states where legislatures have opposed, or are considering opposing, the upcoming requirement that drivers licenses and other identification documents comply with strict rules crafted by the federal government. The upcoming changes were laid out in the 2005 Real ID Act.

The council voted 5-0 to oppose the ID card requirements, set to take effect next spring. The resolution argues issues of state rights and citizen privacy have prompted states to oppose the upcoming changes.

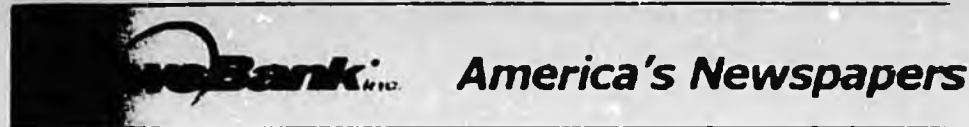
Interior state lawmakers are considering introducing a similar resolution to the Legislature for consideration.

"There are not a lot that states can generally do aside from logging an opinion," said Rep. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks. Nonetheless, Kawasaki is working with Rep. John Coghill, R-North Pole, on a resolution similar to the City Council's. Kawasaki said a handful of lawmakers seem to feel the identification card changes would represent federal government overstepping its bounds.

**Section: News**

**Record Number: /fdn/raw/2007-02-28/2007/02/28/5565.html**

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**'Big Brother' is almost here**

**Juneau Empire (AK) - July 13, 2007**

In his eerily farsighted book "1984," George Orwell describes a society in which privacy is unknown, slavish obedience a given, and nonconformity the ultimate enemy of the state.

In a nation crawling with domestic spies, the image of Big Brother is seemingly omnipresent. His gaze of loving authority encourages a compliant populace to maintain its herd mentality. Interestingly, while his face is everywhere, in reality, Big Brother is faceless. No one ever actually sees him. They merely assume he is in charge, that he cares for them like a familial overseer, and that his version of society is the only correct one.

It's taken us a while, but we're beginning to catch up with Orwell's vision. The Bush administration's virtually unrestricted government surveillance of Americans has expanded dramatically in the past few years. And while we still lack Winston Smith's ultra-cool spying television set in our living rooms, by this time next year we're slated to have something almost as nifty. It's called REAL ID, and when it kicks in, well, (Big) brother, we'll have all the personal security we could want. Really.

On May 11, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the REAL ID Act of 2005, as an attachment to a military spending bill. In essence, the law, which goes into effect in May of 2008 (or a year later with certain caveats), will create a federalized driver's license, with standards to be set by the Department of Homeland Security.

Well, of course it's for our own good. We'd never be able to survive as a nation without it. We haven't so far. And only kooks, right-wing conspiracy theorists and the blatantly unpatriotic would balk at:

1. Providing an incredible amount of often difficult-to-obtain documentation proving they are who they say they are.
2. Either directly paying exorbitant fees for the new identification card or paying for it through ballooning taxation.
3. Submitting to the future possibility of biometric identifiers and radio-frequency identification within the card itself.
4. Being deposited in a massive database.
5. Being forbidden to travel freely in their own country by their method of choice.
6. Surrendering a whole lot more of their privacy and individuality.

But there is rebellion in the wind.

Montana, which as a state has always had the stomach for a good scrap, flatly refuses to implement the federal plan, stating that it is "inimical to the security and well-being of the people of Montana." New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch signed into law that state's official rejection of REAL ID, indicating that the unfunded federal mandate was "repugnant" to both the state and U.S. constitutions. Other states have expressed similar legislative opposition to what is rightly perceived as an egregious intrusion into the privacy of individuals, and a dismembering of states' rights. The National Governor's Association has

also expressed opposition to the federal law.

While compliance with REAL ID is "voluntary," it is also "mandatory," since noncompliance will result in your being barred from flying on a commercial airplane, entering federal buildings, opening a bank account, and engaging in a variety of other daily activities currently taken for granted. What REAL ID amounts to is the creation of a de facto national identification card and internal passport. For Alaskans, whose dependence on commercial air transport is a fact of life, refusal to "voluntarily" participate in this program means a virtual cessation of travel to the Outside.

Supporters of REAL ID claim it will help weed out illegal aliens, but our government's arrogant refusal to seal our southern borders exposes that defense as nothing more than smoke and mirrors. This program is geared toward American citizens, not illegal aliens.

Alaska is embarrassingly slow in opposing REAL ID. Though not currently requiring implementation of the law, our state legislature's milquetoast stance is a far cry from vigorous and outright rejection. For a place that supposedly prizes personal freedom and independence, this reluctance to take a stand is pitiful.

The only two options at this point are equally dramatic: boot REAL ID into the legislative oblivion it so richly deserves, or roll out the welcome mat for one fearmongering British writer. His ideas have been looking for a home for a long time.

- Kevin Reeves is a freelance writer living in Haines.

**Section:** *Opinion*

**Record Number:** 11A60BEE06BA4A40

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## Opinion

**Anchorage Daily News (AK) - August 31, 2007**

**Author: Staff**

**REAL ID Alaska should join list of states telling Uncle Sam no thanks**

It's hard to believe Alaskans will stand for it.

By the end of 2009, the federal government says Alaska and every other state must produce drivers licenses that effectively function as a national ID card. To issue a license, states must demand to see a birth certificate and proof of residence, verify those documents, make sure the license can easily be read by federal scanners, and link all the license information to a national database. If Alaska dares reject this intrusive, burdensome federal mandate, the feds will refuse to accept Alaska's ID for "federal purposes" and Alaskans will need a passport to board any domestic flight or visit any federal building or national park.

What would we gain if we cave in to this unprecedented federal pressure?

- \* More bureaucracy. States would have to vet and maintain huge volumes of personal information, and would have to do most of it on their own dime. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has made it clear that the states will pick up most of the tab -- \$23 billion nationwide over 10 years, by Homeland Security's own estimate.
- \* Less security. Mr. Chertoff complains 8,000 separate ID cards for various purposes in the United States make it hard to recognize forgeries and protect our borders from illegal immigrants or terrorists. But the Electronic Privacy Information Center, for example, argues that a single card is like having one key to many doors. In the wrong hands, that key can shatter security and privacy on a vast scale. Security experts also warn that terrorists and other criminals will find ways to forge REAL ID cards, no matter how expensive and difficult, to steal identities of honest citizens.
- \* Less freedom. A passport to fly to Seattle? To visit Denali? To walk into the Social Security office in downtown Anchorage? Ridiculous.

It is an absolute lie to say that a federally dictated driver's license is not a national ID.

It is absolutely a national ID. Homeland Security just refuses to call it that.

States are on their own to solve the implementation problems and cover the costs. If states balk, well, your citizens will be second-class, automatically suspect, because the feds reject any state ID that doesn't comply with federal rules.

There's no guarantee all this sound and fury will make us any more secure.

Seventeen state legislatures have taken a stand against the REAL ID Act. In 2006, Alaska Reps. Paul Seaton and Max Gruenberg led a successful effort to delay Alaska from complying. In 2007, a bipartisan group of state House members backed a resolution opposing the act. It languished in committee. So Alaska -- a state that was in the forefront of protests against the worst of the USA Patriot Act -- is still on the bubble about REAL ID.

Time to get off. REAL ID won't make living in the United States safer, just more controlled and complicated for ordinary citizens. This isn't just an overreaction to 9/11 and the tide of illegal immigration. It's a dangerous reaction. Alaska should say no. Congress should repeal a bill that passed with no debate or public hearings, that was tucked into a 2005 spending bill to cover the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and tsunami relief.

Duane Bannock, head of the state Division of Motor Vehicles, says he is neither for nor against REAL ID, but does point out that final regulations haven't been published yet, and that Homeland Security's revised regs may answer some objections. Maybe. But the devil isn't just in the details of REAL ID. It's in the idea.

We need reason to deal with the immigration issue and we need resolution to combat terrorism. A national ID born of fear defies both.

**BOTTOM LINE:** REAL ID is a real mistake. Alaska should protest and support repeal.

That's our Maggie

Maggie the elephant holds a peculiar place in Alaska's imagination. A peculiarly large place, in fact.

Are Alaskans leaving billions of dollars in oil company pockets? How many ex-Alaska legislators will go to jail for corruption? Will the Alaska gas line ever get built?

Who cares? The welfare of Alaska's lone elephant more than holds her own in the scramble for public attention.

She's our own Paris Hilton, our Brad and Jen, the tragic celebrity story that just gets weirder as it goes. (My GOD! Is that BOB BARKER?) Heck, as if to top off the picture of a celebrity in distress, Maggie even has a world-class cellulite problem. (If only she would hit that treadmill harder ...)

Will it cost too much to ship Maggie someplace warmer? Here comes Hollywood money to the rescue!

But wait, how are they going to ship her out -- by jumbo jet? Will she get a PETA-approved elephant airline safety seat? If she goes by ship, is it humane to send her across the Gulf of Alaska without Dramamine? Will poor Maggie feel deprived if she is no longer the center of so much national attention?

Well, she need not slink off into obscurity. The free ride awaiting her would end at an elephant sanctuary in California. Maybe Paris Hilton will trade in her ferret for an occasional outing with a once-famous elephant.

-- Peter Dunlap-Shohl and Matt Zencey

**Caption:** Photo 1: 31edit pg1\_ID\_083107.jpg

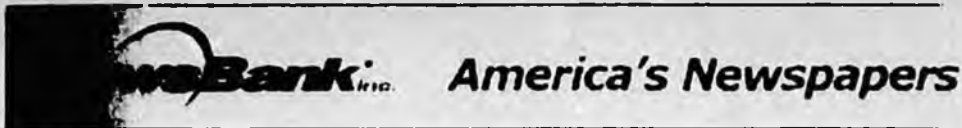
**Edtton:** Final

**Section:** Alaska

**Page:** B4

**Record Number:** 1473888008/31/07

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## **National ID card proposal a bad idea**

**Juneau Empire (AK) - September 10, 2007**

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There's no guarantee all this sound and fury will make us any more secure.

Seventeen state legislatures have taken a stand against the REAL ID Act. In 2006, Alaska Reps. Paul Seaton and Max Gruenberg led a successful effort to delay Alaska from complying. In 2007, a bipartisan group of state House members backed a resolution opposing the act. It languished in committee. So Alaska - a state that was in the forefront of protests against the worst of the USA Patriot Act - is still on the bubble about REAL ID.

Time to get off. REAL ID won't make living in the United States safer, just more controlled and complicated for ordinary citizens. This isn't just an overreaction to 9/11 and the tide of illegal immigration. It's a dangerous reaction. Alaska should say no. Congress should repeal a bill that passed with no debate or public hearings, that was tacked into a 2005 spending bill to cover the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and tsunami relief.

Duane Bannock, head of the state Division of Motor Vehicles, says he is neither for nor against REAL ID, but does point out that final regulations haven't been published yet, and that Homeland Security's revised regs may answer some objections. Maybe. But the devil isn't just in the details of REAL ID. It's in the idea.

We need reason to deal with the immigration issue and we need resolution to combat terrorism. A national ID born of fear defies both.

**Section:** *Opinion*

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Illegal ID 11/2/07

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## Real ID is a real problem

**IF YOU WONDER** whether this nation has gone nuts, consider this: New York, under the federally mandated and widely hated Real ID program, may issue three different kinds of driver's licenses, two for New Yorkers who actually belong in New York — and a third for illegal aliens.

Imagine if you will that someone could present themselves to an official of the state of New York, announce that he or she is an illegal alien and demand a driver's license without repercussions. That he or she would not be snatched up and put on a bus or a plane home is mind-boggling.

REAL ID, passed by Congress in 2005, has its share of critics among civil libertarians who say they worry about the security of information gathered under the program. Proponents say it will make obtaining fake driver's licenses more challenging and increase the safety of the traveling public.

But some 17 states have passed . . .

*(cont'd from front page)* legislation defying the federal REAL ID mandate that is scheduled to be phased in by 2013. The program requires 245 million drivers to renew their licenses in person and provide various documents to prove their citizenship or legal residency.

The program's costs are staggering. The New York Times reports: "The Department of Homeland Security puts the price of the program nationally at \$23 billion over 10 years, while the National Governors Association estimates that the cost to states will exceed \$11 billion in the first five years alone."

Congress, the Times reports, came up with just \$40 million for start-up costs last year, the rest of the burden was dumped on the states.

In Alaska, officials have made no decision on Real ID pending final release of federal regulations. When they do, we can only hope it is not as nutty as New York's.

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# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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February 29, 2008

The Honorable Hollis French, Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Rm 417  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator French:

I am writing you regarding factually inaccurate testimony provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the issue of REAL ID during a hearing on Senate Bill 202. It is important to have public debate regarding the direction Alaska is going to take on REAL ID, and it's imperative that we debate the facts and not rely on unsubstantiated testimony.

The Administration's position on REAL ID continues to evolve. The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Administration have been in regular contact with Governor Palin's office and have not taken action surrounding REAL ID without Governor Palin's knowledge. We are proceeding cautiously, while at the same time strengthening our current practices.

As I stated in my testimony, Alaska has sought an extension from the requirements of REAL ID, which in no way implies that we intend to comply with the federal Act. We have received notification that the extension has been granted. All states, with the exception of three, have sought and been granted extensions. This allows us to essentially "buy time" to determine whether we will comply with the Act.

I encourage members of the committee to read both the REAL ID Act and the final regulations recently published in January. I have included those documents with this correspondence for your convenience. Testimony in the committee and comments offered during the public hearing may have left a false impression with those watching who may not have access to these documents. For instance, nowhere in the Act or final regulations are biometric data, more specifically DNA, required for a driver's license or identification card. Additionally, radio frequency devices are not a requisite for complying with REAL ID. A 2-D barcode is required as it is heavily used by law enforcement. Alaska currently has a 2-D barcode on its driver's licenses and ID cards.