



June 18, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Coats
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Senator Coats:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Document Security Alliance (DSA) to confirm our support for the REAL ID Act and its enforcement. The REAL ID Act and its final rule have encouraged the states to upgrade the security of their driver's licenses and thereby dramatically improve our nation's identity management. DSA is strongly opposed to any delay in implementation and encourages the Homeland Security Subcommittee to support the Department of Homeland Security's current enforcement schedule.

DSA was created by government agencies, private industry and academia. DSA's goal is to identify methods of improving security documents and related procedures to help combat the growing acts of fraud, terrorism, illegal immigration, identity theft, and other criminal acts. DSA members - in both government and private industry - draw upon a wide range of knowledge and detailed technical disciplines to accomplish this goal. The group is committed to develop recommendations to appropriate federal and state government agencies, private industry, and policy makers in order to improve the process and procedures surrounding document security.

The Real ID Act of 2005 was enacted in order to prevent criminals and terrorists from fraudulently obtaining state-issued driver's licenses and IDs and using them to hide from law enforcement and board aircraft. The Real ID Act became law and is now being enforced, bringing a nationwide effort to issue higher security state-issued identity credentials versus less reliable proofs of identity.

In December, DHS announced the REAL ID Act's schedule for enforcement. The several announcements made by DHS leading up to the first phase of enforcement have prompted states to significantly begin improving upon the security of their identity credential issuance processes. In June 2013, the 56 driver's license issuing jurisdictions were meeting 63% of the Real ID Act security requirements. Today, 76% percent of these measures are being met by the jurisdictions, with 8% more in the process of coming into compliance.

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The Document Security Alliance urges the Homeland Security Subcommittee not to impede DHS's enforcement capability of the Real ID Act. Negatively impacting the momentum the Department has already achieved from the jurisdictions' security upgrades will hinder and possibly reverse the crucial work done to improve our public safety and national security.

Sincerely,



Tony Poole
President

CC:

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Mark Begich
The Honorable Chris Coons
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Jerry Moran