



FACT SHEET

SUPPORT [SB1938/HB1696](#) and [SB1934/HB1426](#) Prohibits Implementation of REAL ID in Tennessee

What these bills would do: SB1938 (Johnston), HB1696 (McDaniel), SB1934 (Burchett) and HB1426 (Niceley) would prohibit implementation of the REAL ID in Tennessee.

- **Real ID is a national identity system that violates Americans' privacy rights.** The standardized national driver's licenses required by Real ID will become a key part of a system of databases and identity checks that will track and control individuals' movements and activities. Organizations as diverse as the American Conservative Union, Gun Owners of America and the American Civil Liberties Union all say that Real ID will be a de facto National ID card. Americans have resisted such a card for years, recognizing the threat to our privacy and freedom of movement that comes when we have to "show our papers." Real ID mandates a single, interlinked database containing a wealth of personal information. Worse, its "machine readable component" will be read everywhere from retailers to airports, allowing easy tracking and monitoring of ordinary, law-abiding Americans.
- **Real ID is an unfunded mandate.** The Department of Homeland Security initially estimated that nationwide implementation would cost over \$23 billion, roughly in line with estimates from independent groups like the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association. In its final regulations for implementation, published January 11, 2008, DHS inexplicably scaled back its cost estimate from \$23 billion to \$9.9 billion. Even with that reduced amount, DHS acknowledges the states will have to pay \$3.9 billion toward the cost of REAL ID and individual taxpayers will pay \$5.8 billion. Only \$ 0.2 billion is to be covered by the federal government. The federal government has appropriated far less than will be required, leaving cash-strapped states to shoulder the entire financial burden for a program with no true benefit for the American people.
- **Real ID will do nothing to combat terrorism.** The notion that Real ID will make us any safer is a fraud. ID checks are a poor way to enhance security because the bare facts of a person's identity do not indicate terrorist intent. In some cases, they can actually make it worse by creating the false impression that a dangerous person with a legitimate ID is not a threat, as in the case of a decorated military veteran like Timothy McVeigh or a math professor like Theodore Kaczynski, aka the Unabomber.
- **Real ID would not have prevented 9/11.** All but two of the 9/11 hijackers were in this country legally on student visas and had legitimate state-issued IDs. Furthermore, every single one of the terrorists had a document that would still get him on an airplane today – a passport.

- **Real ID makes us *less safe*.** While doing nothing to prevent terrorism, Real ID makes all Americans more vulnerable to identity theft. The creation of a single interlinked database and the requirement that all of the driver's license data be stored in a "machine readable" format on the license will create a one-stop shop for identity thieves. In addition, the requirement that one's "address of primary residence" be printed on the ID card—rather than a PO Box that protects one's physical location—puts vulnerable drivers such as victims of domestic violence, judges and police officers in physical danger from those who wish to do them harm.
- **Real ID will mean longer lines, higher fees and more bureaucracy at the DMV.** Real ID will require all 200 million Americans with driver's licenses and state-issued ID cards to register at the DMV with their identity documents in tow. The onerous verification requirements for these documents will force multiple repeat visits, and will create an insurmountable bureaucratic hurdle for anyone with a discrepancy in their records – even one as innocent as a last name change. Further, the incredible cost of implementation will be passed on to ordinary citizens in the form of tax hikes and application fees.
- **Real ID is a nightmare for state governments.** Real ID requires state governments to remake their driver's licenses, restructure their computer databases and create an extensive new document storage system. It also requires state motor vehicle departments to verify the "issuance, validity and completeness" of every document presented to them, such as birth certificates and immigration documents.
- **Real ID will be exploited by the private sector to invade privacy.** Real ID will make it easy for anybody in private industry to snap up the data on these IDs by requiring that every driver's license have a uniform "machine readable component" that can be read by anyone in the country. Every convenience store, bar, and bank in the country will be able to grab that information and sell it to data brokers like Choice Point who are now barred by state law from getting data directly from the DMV, but who will quickly add it to their databases.
- **Twenty-one states have enacted anti-Real ID bills or resolutions.** Eleven states – Georgia, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, and Louisiana – will never issue a Real ID license because they have enacted binding legislation prohibiting participation in the Real ID program. Twelve other states, including Tennessee, have passed resolutions opposing the implementation of REAL ID.

What you should do: Contact your state senator and state representative and urge them to vote YES on SB1938/HB1696 and SB1934/HB1426. The easiest way to contact your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to "Find My Legislator," put in your address and click "search."

More information available at www.realnightmare.org.