

From:

To: Marcia.Adams@SCDMV.net Marcia.Adams@SCDMV.net

CC: Scott Englishsenglish@gov.sc.gov

Date: 6/7/2007 10:40:53 AM

Subject:

Attachments: NGA Statement Real ID.doc

Marcia, NGA managed to get a statement out. I've already contacted both of our Senate offices letting them know our concerns. I'll let you know how this goes.

Blair

>>> DQuam@NGA.ORG 6/7/2007 10:28 AM >>>

To: Washington Representatives/ State-Federal Contacts

Re: Real ID and the Immigration Debate

Status:

Two votes are scheduled in the Senate this morning. The first is on an amendment by Senator Coburn; the second is on cloture. The votes will take place around 11:00 a.m. If cloture is invoked -- meaning that debate on the bill will be limited and the bill completed as early as tomorrow -- the Baucus/Tester/Sununu/Leahy/Collins amendment will likely come up this afternoon (1:00 p.m.)

NGA Action:

NGA will distribute the attached statement to the Hill and press this morning. Offices are encouraged to contact their delegations separately from the NGA to express their opinion on the inclusion of Real ID in the underlying bill. If you can please share any information you receive from your delegations and I will update offices as events warrant.

Talking points: Below are possible talking points for use regarding the Baucus/Tester amendment and Real ID:

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Senators Baucus, Tester, Sununu, Leahy and Collins are supporting an amendment (SA 1236) that would strip all references to Real ID from the immigration bill.

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Governors remain concerned that Real ID in its current form is unworkable. Final regulations for implementing Real ID have not been released and no state is ready to meet the statutory deadline of May 2008.

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Governors have made several recommendations to Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to improve the law and make it feasible. These recommendations include establishing realistic deadlines; providing sufficient funding for state implementation; and allowing states to use best practices until federal and state databases are fully developed and deployed.

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To date none of governors recommendations have been adopted by Congress and DHS has yet to issue final regulations.

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States estimate that REAL ID will cost \$11 billion over five years. OMB confirmed the state estimate calculated the cost to states at more than \$14 billion over ten years. To date Congress has appropriated \$40 million -- \$34 million of which remains with DHS.

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Given the problems associated with REAL ID, the immigration bill's use of REAL ID for employment authorization and identity is premature and would significantly increase pressure on states to comply with a provision that Congress has said is not a mandate.

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Before Congress considers expanding the use of REAL ID, it needs to work with states to adopt the recommendations of governors to ensure that the program is workable, reasonable and actually increases the security and integrity of state driver's license and identification card systems.

Thanks, DCQ

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