

Dear Conferee,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to ensure there is no funding for implementation of the Real ID Act of 2005 in the final version of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2008. \$50 million for Real ID was appropriated in the House. In the Senate, however, an amendment offered by Sen. Alexander to add an additional \$300 million was defeated by a bipartisan majority. Earlier efforts to expand Real ID as part of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill were also rejected. We strongly urge the Conference Committee to accept the Senate's approach not to fund Real ID.

As you know, the Real ID Act was passed as a rider to an emergency supplemental bill in 2005. It received no hearings and no debate in the full chambers. Since its passage, Real ID has proved an enormous failure. The Department of Homeland Security has failed to issue final regulations for implementation of the Act. Meanwhile, the states have overwhelmingly rejected the law, with seven states passing binding laws barring implementation of its requirements, and an additional ten passing resolutions calling on Congress to repeal Real ID.

Furthermore, of the \$40 million that has been appropriated for Real ID implementation so far, \$34 million remains unspent. The \$6 million that has been parceled out to the states was given in the form of grants to Kentucky and New Hampshire to develop pilot programs for implementation. This year, New Hampshire *returned* its grant and passed a law barring Real ID participation by the state. If an additional \$50 million is appropriated, it is similarly likely to languish in Washington rather than going to states that need it to implement other desirable programs.

The response from the states and the recent legislative defeats for Real ID funding and expansion in the Senate make it clear that Real ID is a widely unpopular mandate that is nowhere near becoming a reality. Rather than throwing more money at this hopelessly flawed program, the Conference Committee should reallocate the \$50 million to other national priorities, and Congress should fix the Real ID Act itself.

Thank you,

ADC Michigan

AFFIRM (Alliance for Fair Federal Immigration Reform)

American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Massachusetts

American Civil Liberties Union

American Friends Service Committee

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American Library Association

American Policy Center  
Americans for Tax Reform  
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)  
Asian American Justice Center  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California  
Association of American Physicians and Surgeons  
Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (BAIRC)  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee  
CAUSA, Oregon's statewide immigrant rights coalition  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition  
Center for Democracy and Technology  
Center for Financial Privacy and Human Rights  
Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights  
Citizen Outreach Project  
Comite NO NOS VAMOS  
Consumer Action  
Cyber Privacy Project  
Episcopal Migration Ministries  
Equal Justice Alliance  
EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation)  
Fairfax County Privacy Council  
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Fuerza Mundial Collaborative  
Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)  
International Institute Rhode Island  
Justice Through Music  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center, Chicago, IL  
Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles, CA  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Massachusetts Chapter  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Liberty Coalition  
Long Island Immigrant Alliance  
Michigan Organizing Project  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of La Raza  
National Immigrant Solidarity Network  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
Natural Solutions Foundation  
New Jersey Immigration Policy Network  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations  
Pain Relief Network  
Patient Privacy Rights  
PrivacyActivism  
Privacy Journal  
Republican Liberty Caucus  
Rural Organizing Project  
Rutherford Institute  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)  
Tenants Union of Washington State  
U.S. Bill of Rights Foundation  
VelvetRevolution.us  
Washington Community Action Network  
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project  
World Privacy Forum  
YKASEC - Empowering the Korean American Community