

An Open Letter to the Conference Committee on Intelligence Reform:

REMOVE NATIONAL ID PROVISIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE REPORT

November 15, 2004

Dear Conferees:

We all want to make America safer, and many of the provisions in the Intelligence Reform legislation will help do just that. But the language in H.R. 10 and S. 2845 creating federally standardized driver's licenses will do nothing to make us safer, and it is an unprecedented invasion of the privacy rights guaranteed in our Constitution.

That is why the undersigned groups, representing all points on the political spectrum, have joined together to urge you to delete the federal driver's license standard provisions from the final intelligence reform package.

A federally standardized driver's license is a National Identification Card. Linking this new generation of licenses to a national database, as is allowed under the proposals you are considering, gives the government unfettered access to personal information about virtually everyone in America. Coupled with technology already on the market, this card would allow the government to constantly monitor everyone with a driver's license or identification card.

- National Identification Cards do not stop terrorist attacks. Israel has a National ID card program that is similar to the proposals under consideration, yet it continues to be victimized by terror attacks.
- A National Identification Card program would cost billions of dollars to develop and implement. If you are going to spend billions of our tax dollars, it should be spent on programs that actually make us safer, not on those that merely give the illusion of safety.
- Every Congress that has considered a National Identification Card program and every Administration since President Ronald Reagan has refused to endorse such a proposal.

There are ways to make America safer that don't take away our rights and liberties. But the National Identification Card program being proposed in the Intelligence Reform bills is not one of them.

We urge you to remove the National Identification Card program provisions from the intelligence reform conference report. Make America safe. But keep us free.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
American Conservative Union
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Library Association
American Policy Center
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Arab American Institute
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
Association of American Physicians and Surgeons
Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics
Center for National Security Studies
Citizen Outreach
Coalición de Derechos Humanos/Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Consumer Alert
Cyber Privacy Project
Democratic Freedom Caucus
EdWatch
Fairfax County Privacy Council
Filipinos for Affirmative Action (Oakland, CA)
Filipino Civil Rights Advocates (Oakland, CA)
Free Congress Foundation

Gun Owners of America
Humphrey & Whidden Insurance Agency, Inc.
Immigrant Solidarity Network
Institute for Justice
International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology (ICSPP)
Liberty Committee
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Multiracial Activist
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers, Inc.
National Motorists Association
National Taxpayers Union
National Vaccine Information Center
Northwest Workers' Justice Project
Pain Relief Network
Peace Action WI
Privacilla.org
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Private Citizen, Inc.
Republican Liberty Caucus
Taxpayers for Common Sense Action
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
World Privacy Forum

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