



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 615-202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

24 June 2014

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel R. Coats
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Senator Coats,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our ongoing support for the REAL ID Act and subsequent rule. The Fraternal Order of Police has supported the REAL ID Act since it was initially proposed in 2005 because, for our members, it is a critical officer safety issue. We urge that you also support the REAL ID Act and ensure that it is not further delayed.

The Fraternal Order of Police has supported the REAL ID Act since its enactment, because police officers rely on driver's licenses as proof of identity. Whether it's a routine police matter or a life threatening situation, police officers rely on driver's licenses to establish the identity of the persons involved. Driver's licenses also allow officers to access information related to a person's driving record, and more importantly, any criminal history. Driver's licenses from States that meet the REAL ID standards provide a higher degree of assurance and security for both the officer and the document holder.

Despite the important role that driver's licenses play in assuring the safety of the public, enforcement of the REAL ID Act has already been delayed several times. These delays have caused confusion among the States as well as law enforcement. However, despite these setbacks, much has been accomplished. The security of State-issued identification has improved dramatically because of the REAL ID Act. Seventy-six percent of the REAL ID requirements have been met with another 8% scheduled to be completed in the near term.

The Fraternal Order of Police strongly believes public safety on our nation's highways and in our neighborhoods will be better served if Congress and the Federal government continue to support implementation of the REAL ID Act and assists all States in reaching compliance. Additional delays in enforcement or implementation will only put more officers—and the public—at risk.

The rank-and-file law enforcement officers who put themselves in harm's way everyday must have confidence in the identity documents they receive while doing their jobs and we believe REAL ID implementation will provide this confidence.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you both for your consideration of our perspective on this issue. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President