

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ◆ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ◆ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 16, 2008

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher Speaker of the House of Representatives 463 State Office Building Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 334, House File 3807, the Noncompliance with REAL I.D. Act.

Three weeks ago, I vetoed Chapter 239, H.F. 1351, which contained a similar proposal to prohibit Minnesota from complying with federal REAL I.D. requirements. At that time, I outlined the reasons why doing so would be detrimental to our state and citizens.

Valid concerns have been raised about REAL I.D. including states rights, funding, personal privacy and others. I am committed to work to ensure those concerns are addressed. At the same time, I hope legislators share my interest in protecting Minnesotans, enhancing homeland security, combating illegal immigration, and reducing identity fraud. Working with the federal government to resolve these issues would be a better strategy than enacting an outright ban on Minnesota's participation in this program at this time.

As I have previously noted, REAL I.D. requires inclusion of minimum security features in state driver's licenses. It was a product of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. REAL I.D. was passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis and signed into law by the President.

If this legislation becomes law, Minnesota driver's licenses will not be compliant with federal regulations after December 31, 2009, and Minnesotans will be prohibited from using their driver's license as identification for air travel or for entering federal buildings.

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In addition, this legislation would prevent Minnesota from accessing federal funding for enhancing the security features of our driver's licenses.

Working to resolve concerns regarding REAL I.D. is a prudent next step. If concerns are not addressed at the federal level, more dramatic steps can be taken at the state level in the future.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty

Governor

Tim Pawlenty

Governor

Cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate

Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader

Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader

Senator Mee Moua

Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader

Representative Carlos Mariani

Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate

Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State