



A few more facts about REAL ID

Re: "Tea Party to Jindal: Veto REAL ID," June 10, 8A

Sandy McDade

June 16, 2014

I would like to reply to your article which had several pieces of misinformation. I was present in Baton Rouge at the Capitol when HB 907 was heard in committee in both the House and Senate, gave personal testimony and also lobbied both sides of the legislature in relation to this bill.

The public should be aware of the following facts about the bill:

- Louisiana currently is in compliance with all but two of the security measures of the Federal REAL ID: 1. No gold star. 2. Louisiana has not given the Department of Homeland Security "all authority" over our driver's license and IDs. This last item is a requirement of the REAL IDS Act of 2005; to give up our state sovereignty. If the governor does not veto HB 907, REAL ID will be fully implemented in Louisiana,
- In both 2008 and 2010 the Louisiana Legislature passed Acts forbidding the implementation of REAL ID in Louisiana. The Department of Motor Vehicles worked to bring Louisiana in compliance anyway scanning and storing birth certificates, social security numbers and school records for first time registrants.
- The threat that people will be unable to board domestic flight without the REAL ID is only a "threat." Currently 30 states have not accepted the REAL ID though they are in varying degrees of compliance. Twenty states have adopted the REAL ID and some of those are trying to get out due to privacy concerns according to a state-by-state analysis by The Cato Institute which was released on May 12.

- The airline industry, where both my husband and I spent our careers, is not going to allow the federal government to ground 30 states. The economic impact would be just too great.

- All persons applying for a driver's license or special identification card for the first time shall be required by HB907 to have their private and personal documents including a birth certificate and a social security number scanned into the database. This is required. It is not voluntary as was stated in your article.

- Louisiana will join a nationwide database. The text of the REAL ID Act can be found here: <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/real-id-act-text.pdf>. On page four of this document it says at (12) " Provide electronic access to all other States to information contained in the motor vehicle database of the State." So, the information in Louisiana will be available nationwide. This is a national database. The information may be stored in Louisiana, but any state in the nation will have access to that data.

- If Louisiana gives the federal government control over the requirements and issuance of state issued driver's licenses and special IDs, federal law will trump any action by state lawmakers.

Finally, this bill was promoted as an opt-out for those who didn't want a national ID card. Col. Edmonson admitted that the bill provides no opt-out for Louisiana citizens.

Currently, these state-issued drivers licenses and IDs are secure. Turning our licenses and IDs over to the federal government along with a confiscation of our private documents is a bad idea and violates the Fourth and Tenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. We don't need the Department of Homeland Security/federal government controlling what they will be in the future.

Call the governor toll free at (866) 366-1121 and ask him personally to veto HB 907.