



THE OKLAHOMAN

Real ID is a threat to Oklahomans

Jim Harper

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Regarding “Lawmakers should move to comply with Real ID” (Our Views, Sept. 19): The Oklahoman's call for compliance with the Real ID Act misunderstands some of the security issues, and would reward federal government overreach. No advocate for a national ID, including the “Keeping IDentities Safe” group, has articulated how putting Oklahomans into a national ID would improve national security. The 9/11 attacks didn't rely on false identification, and recent, relatively minor attacks from homegrown “lone wolves” would not have been thwarted by having native-born, law-abiding Americans stand in lines at the Department of Public Safety.

If the Legislature capitulates to federal demands and hands power over driver licensing to the federal government because of threats to turn Oklahomans away from military bases, Oklahoma will never get that authority back. Bureaucrats at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., will decide how to run the Department of Public Safety's driver licensing operations and how to spend Oklahoman's tax dollars.

On balance, Real ID is a security threat. The law requires driver data to be shared nationwide through a network of databases. This summer, Louisiana suffered a data breach that saw data for about a quarter million of the state's drivers on sale at “dark net” hackers' website. Real ID creates greater risks of identity fraud on Oklahomans than it creates security from any kind of terror threat.

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