

Rock Hill Herald

Voice of the People: Jan. 9, 2010

A more sensible Real ID law

Your Dec. 30 editorial, "No need for Real ID," is right to flag concerns with the Real ID law. We wish you had taken it a step further and pointed out problems with related legislation pending in the U.S. Congress. PASS ID (S. 1261), or the "Providing for Additional Security in States' Identification Act of 2009," claims to correct problems with the Real ID, but its fixes are cosmetic. It would store troves of sensitive identity source documents on millions of individuals — an invitation to identity thieves. It uses the same flawed federal databases. It would allow insecure technology such as radio frequency chips to be used in the ID, despite its potential for use in tracking individuals' movements. It would require domestic violence victims to get approval from the state before shielding their identity. And, as your editorial notes about Real ID, PASS ID would impose costly administrative charges on consumers in the form of higher Department of Motor Vehicle fees.

A better fix would be H.R. 3471, the REAL ID Repeal and Identification Security Enhancement Act of 2009. This bill would require a collaborative approach called negotiated rulemaking, which would advise Department of Health and Human Services on maximizing driver's license security while minimizing states' administrative burdens. It would better protect privacy by prohibiting the use of license data by third parties and requiring data encryption and adherence to state privacy laws. H.R. 3471 will increase security while protecting consumers' privacy — and at a lower cost than REAL ID or its unfortunate successor, PASS ID. H.R. 3471 is the "more sensible Real ID law" that your editorial calls for.

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