



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

STATE SENATE

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20528-0525

Dear Madam Secretary,

On behalf of the 28 Kentucky state senators who have co-signed this letter, we express our sincere appreciation for your service to the American people. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety and national security. We respectfully request that you, along with the appropriate federal agencies, suspend and delay the implementation of the REAL ID requirement currently set to take effect on May 7, 2025.

This federal mandate will require all Kentuckians to possess a REAL ID to board U.S. commercial flights or access military bases and certain federal facilities. While the intent behind REAL ID is understandable, we believe the practical impact on Kentuckians must also be considered.

Despite significant progress, Kentucky is simply not fully prepared for complete implementation. The transition to a regional driver's licensing model has brought improvements. However, it has also resulted in limited appointment availability and long wait times at many regional offices across the state. If the REAL ID requirement moves forward as scheduled, it will further strain already overburdened regional offices and create unnecessary hardship, particularly for seniors, rural residents, and working families who may struggle to access the necessary documents or transportation. Some measures were passed in this last legislative session, but these will not be implemented before May 7.

The REAL ID deadline has been delayed multiple times for similar reasons, and we believe another reasonable extension is warranted to ensure a smoother, more accessible rollout.

We appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this urgent matter. We urge you to act in the interest of the people and delay the REAL ID effective date once more.

Sincerely,

Senator Jimmy Higdon
Senate District 14

Cc: Sen. Mitch McConnell
Sen. Rand Paul

Rep. Hal Rogers
Rep. Brett Guthrie

Rep. Andy Barr
Rep. Thomas Massie

Rep. James Comer
Rep. Morgan McGarvey

Enclosure

Senator David P. Givens, District 9
President Pro Tempore

Senator Max Wise, District 16
Majority Floor Leader

Senator Donald Douglas, District 22
Vice Chair of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Jared Carpenter, District 34
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Phillip Wheeler, District 31
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Gex Williams, District 20
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Danny Carroll, District 2

Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, District 24

Senator Jason Howell, District 1

Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe, District 12

Senator Michael J. Nemes, District 38

Senator Steve Rawlings, District 11

Senator Craig Richardson, District 3

Senator Stephen West, District 27

Senator Mike Wilson, District 32
Majority Whip

Senator Robby Mills, District 4
Majority Caucus Chair

Senator Brandon Storm, District 21
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Brandon Smith, District 30
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Greg Elkins, District 28
Member of Senate Transportation Committee

Senator Gary Boswell, District 8

Senator Matthew Deneen, District 10

Senator Rick Girdler, District 15

Senator Scott Madon, District 29

Senator Stephen Meredith, District 5

Senator Matt Nunn, District 17

Senator Aaron Reed, District 7

Senator Lindsey Tichenor, District 6