



The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Via Facsimile and Mail

May 9, 2008

RE: House Bill 2677

Dear Governor Napolitano:

The ACLU of Arizona urges you to sign H.B. 2807 and join the eighteen other states that have taken a stand to protect civil liberties. As you know, this bill would bar Arizona's participation in the federal Real ID program, and help solidify our state's reputation as a government committed to the personal privacy of the people.

The importance of taking this step on behalf of the citizens of Arizona has been overwhelmingly recognized by Democrats and Republicans alike in the legislature, and by a wide spectrum of community and advocacy groups. Democratic candidates for President have both expressed serious concerns with the present form of the Read ID program. Criticism of this act transcends political ideology whether on the left or right. Amongst the organizations that have publicly opposed adoption are the National Conference of State Legislators, SEIU, the CATO Institute, American Bar Association, American Conservative Union, Leadership Conference for Civil Rights, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrow.

The widespread concerns about Real ID focus on the basic threats to fundamental democratic rights of privacy and personal autonomy that are clearly presented by this program as presently formulated. Additionally this hastily conceived initiative in the guise of increasing safety has not been adequately funded and would likely result in significant costs for Arizona at a time of large budget deficits.

Democratic and Republican legislators in states throughout the country have joined in opposition to Real ID. Eight states have formally opted out of the program, and ten others have passed resolutions calling on Congress to repeal the Real ID Act. Just this week the Minnesota House and Senate passed an anti-Real ID bill by overwhelming veto-proof margins.

The Arizona anti-Real ID legislation follows the trend throughout the country and passed by large margins in order to safeguard basic interests of Arizona residents. Your signature is required to institutionalize these safeguards.

Please contact me for further discussion at: 602-532-0486.

Sincerely yours,

DANIEL POCHODA
Legal Director ACLU of Arizona