



**Homeland
Security**

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor, State of Alabama
State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

Dear Governor Ivey,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appreciates the State of Alabama's efforts in supporting our shared goal of improving the security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards, consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (P.L.109-13).

On November 7, 2019, DHS issued a request for information (RFI), published in the *Federal Register*, to receive input on technologies that could assist states and their residents in the digital submission, receipt, and authentication of documents and information applicants must provide when applying for a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card. DHS received 69 responsive comments, including submissions from 24 states, 17 private sector companies, and three associations (AAMVA, NAPHSIS, and USTA)¹. DHS has completed its preliminary review of the responsive proposals, and based on this review, has found one viable option that can be immediately implemented by the states, territories, and District of Columbia, hereafter "States," consistent with existing authorities. DHS continues to evaluate the other proposals for action, and is working with the Office of Management and Budget and Congress, as necessary.

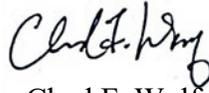
Effective immediately, the States are permitted to implement the acceptance of electronically submitted copies of source documents with certain restrictions. Specifically, the states may now add the pre-submission of identity and lawful status source documents, through a secure electronic process, prior to an applicant's in-person DMV visit, and physical presentation of those same documents for authentication and verification by DMV personnel. According to this proposal, electronic pre-submission helps streamline the application process by: 1) ensuring that an applicant has the correct information and, 2) allowing a state to electronically retain that information prior to the applicant's in-person visit. Retaining the information in advance eliminates time-consuming activities associated with the physical scanning and retention of source documents that typically occurs during the applicant's DMV visit. We understand that this has a direct impact on overall applicant wait times and customer satisfaction. DHS recommends that States consider implementing this option.

¹ AAMVA - American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, NAPHSIS – National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems, USTA – U.S. Travel Association.

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Thank you for your continued support of the REAL ID Act and implementing regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact the REAL ID Program Office at (202) 447-3368 should you have questions related to compliance matters. For all other homeland security matters, please contact the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement at (202) 282-9310.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary

cc:

