

Documenting Americans: A Political History of National ID Card Proposals in the United States

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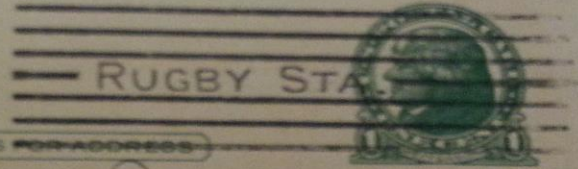


Findings

- In the past, some policymakers and members of the public have supported proposals for national ID cards, and many today see national ID cards more positively than conventional wisdom would let us believe.

Polish national ID card





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Hon. Hatton W. Summers
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C.

HR 6256

3620 Clarendon Rd
Philyp, N.Y. June 4/82

Dear Sir:-

Re=Manassas Bill H.R. 6256.

Would ask you to vote against this bill as
it would put undemocratic restrictions on
individual liberty + might work a hardship on
older people seeking jobs, as prospective employer
could demand to see their
identification card + thus learn
their true age.

Respectfully submitted
(Mrs) F. Glasner

~~HR 6256~~

HR 6256

714-120

H.R. 6256

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEFS OF POLICE



918 F STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO

March 11, 1942

- President*
Donald S. Leonard
Detroit, Michigan
- President Emeritus*
William P. Rutledge
Woodstock, Michigan
- Honorary President*
James M. Boughton
Purcell, Virginia
- First Vice-President*
Joseph T. Owens
Reno, New York
- Second Vice-President*
Michael F. Morrissey
Indianapolis, Indiana
- Third Vice-President*
D. C. Draper
Tusinto, Ohio, Canada
- Fourth Vice-President*
Bodie A. Wallman
Oakland, California
- Fifth Vice-President*
Fred A. Ruff
Montrose, New Jersey
- Sixth Vice-President*
T. P. Sullivan
Springfield, Illinois
- Secretary*
Peter F. Brady
Hartem, New Jersey
- Treasurer*
John L. Sullivan
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
- Executive Secretary*
Edward J. Kelly
IACP Headquarters
Washington, D. C.
- Sergeant-at-Arms*
William M. Peterson
Winnetka, Illinois
- *
- STATE
AND PROVINCIAL
SECTION**
- General Chairman*
Don F. Stiver
Indiana State Police
Indianapolis, Indiana
- *
- SAFETY DIVISION**
- Director*
Lt. F. M. Kream
1827 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois

To the Honorable Members
of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.:

There is now before the Committee on the Judiciary a bill, H.R. 6256, known as the "Citizen Identification Act of 1942", requiring all persons in the United States over sixteen years of age to carry identification cards and be fingerprinted.

For over forty years our Association has been urging legislation along similar lines which would permit the immediate and positive identity of persons losing their lives in disasters and afford some means of identifying the great number of unknown dead reported each year.

H.R. 6256 is of particular importance at this time when there is great possibility of enemy air raids. The resulting casualties would include a large number of maimed bodies, the identification of which would be impossible at the present time because of lack of a national file of fingerprints of all citizens. The Alien Registration Act extends this protection of assumed identity to aliens, and our citizens should be permitted to enjoy the same security.

We therefore urge you to give your approval and lend your support to H.R. 6256 not only as a vitally needed emergency measure but also as a statute which would be of equal value in times of peace.

Respectfully yours,

Edward J. Kelly
Edward J. Kelly
Executive Secretary

EJK:c

H.R. 6256

Public opinion on identification documents in World War II

- 69 percent of Americans believed everyone in the United States should be required to carry an identification card

Identification proposals in the 1970s

- Frances G. Knight
- Father Theodore M. Hesburgh

The 9/11 attacks

- All but one of the 9/11 hijackers acquired some form of U.S. identification, some by fraud.

The 9/11 Commission

“The federal government should set standards for the issuance of birth certificates and sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.”

The REAL ID Act

NEW ID REQUIREMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles

Congress passed the REAL ID Act requiring states to issue identification that meets higher security standards.

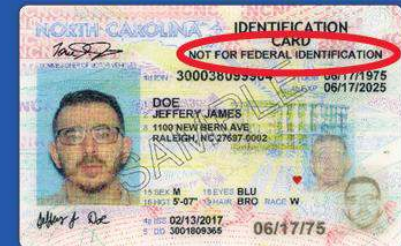
REAL ID



A **REAL ID** is a single form of identification to:

- Travel on commercial airlines
- Enter military bases
- Enter federal facilities
- Enter nuclear power plants

NON-REAL ID



An ID with "Not for Federal Identification" will require additional documentation for flying and entering military bases, nuclear power plants and other federal facilities.

Get the complete list of requirements at
NCREALID.gov

Call to schedule your appointment
(919) 715-7000

Conclusion

- The conventional wisdom is that Americans are, and have always been, staunchly opposed to national ID cards, but the historical evidence reveals a more complicated story.

Questions and Comments

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