



Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Richard A. Davey, Secretary & CEO
Celia J. Blue, Registrar



March 4, 2014

The Honorable Bruce Tarr
State Senator
State House, Room 308
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Senator Tarr:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the status of Massachusetts' efforts towards compliance with the federal REAL ID Act ("Act").

Massachusetts has engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") since the initial passage of the Act in 2005. Since its passage, the deadlines for compliance with the Act and subsequently adopted DHS regulations have been subject to a series of extensions. DHS has continued to grant extensions to states that have made progress towards compliance, even if a state has not achieved full compliance with the Act's requirements.

DHS has recognized the Commonwealth's efforts and progress in enhancing the security of driver's licenses and identification cards consistent with the standards set forth in the Act. DHS has not cited Massachusetts for "a lack of progress" towards compliance. Rather, the RMV has been requested to provide additional information to enable DHS to assess the progress that the state has made.

The RMV currently does meet certain REAL ID standards, as DHS has noted. Since the passage of the Act, Massachusetts has implemented practices that detect and prevent efforts to fraudulently obtain licenses and ID cards including the use of document authentication equipment to verify the validity of identification documents presented by applicants; and facial recognition technology that prevents the issuance of multiple licenses and ID cards to the same person using fraudulently obtained or stolen identification.

The RMV will continue to work with DHS to gain the compliance extension granted to other states in further recognition of the progress the Commonwealth continues to make to further enhance the integrity of its credential issuance process. Since February 2013, the RMV has continued to enhance its licensing features by implementing the ability to cancel licenses and is planning to increase the ability to capture longer names, both of which are required by the Act. There are certain provisions that will require additional work to be done nationally in order for states to comply fully with the requirements of the Act, such as the development of system to verify REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards with the state of issuance that is not slated to be available in pilot phase until 2016. The granting of the compliance extension by DHS to the Commonwealth will

PO Box 55889 • Boston MA • 02205
Tel: 857-368-8000 • TDD: 877-768-8833

ensure the uninterrupted recognition of Massachusetts driver's licenses and ID cards as federally recognized forms of identification.

Thank you once again for your interest in the Commonwealth's continued collaboration with DHS on the best practices to supplement the existing security of the state's license and identification system.

Sincerely,



Celia J. Blue
Registrar

MassDOT/RMV Division

cc: Senator Hedlund
Senator Humason
Senator Michael Moore
Senator Richard Moore
Senator Ross
Representative Jones
Representative Hill
Representative Peterson
Representative O'Connell
Representative Diehl
Representative DiNatale
Representative Smola
Representative Garry
Representative Vieira
Representative Lyons
Representative Beaton
Representative Frost
Representative Kuros
Representative Orrall
Representative Boldyga
Representative Barrows
Representative Moran
Representative D'Emilia
Representative Mirra
Representative Ferguson
Representative Howitt
Representative Lombardo
Representative Fattman
Representative Dooley
Representative Dwyer

Representative Fallon
Representative Gregoire