

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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**DANIELLE W. GREGOIRE**  
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF  
THE 4TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

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Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities  
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February 27, 2014

His Excellency Deval Patrick  
Governor of Massachusetts  
Office of the Governor  
State House, Room 105  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

I write to you today regarding the federal REAL ID Act. I respectfully request an update on Massachusetts' compliance efforts on this matter.

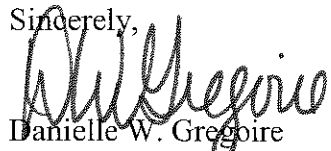
I have received several emails from constituents in my district on this topic, as well as have read several articles in the Boston Globe and Boston Herald on the state's non-compliance to this law. From my understanding, our state is not required to comply with the mandates of this law; however the lack of doing so would put our state at a great disadvantage. If Massachusetts licenses do not meet the criteria put forth by the federal government, they will no longer be a valid form of identification to do such things as access entry into certain federal buildings and board domestic flights.

Through my reading on this topic, I have discovered that some of the pushback on compliance is because adoption would be expensive, burdensome and some even believe would encroach on the privacy of our constituents. As far as expense, the only figure I have available is from the United States Department of Homeland Security and is from 2008. They projected that the cost to implement REAL ID would not exceed \$3.9 billion. I understand that this is a nationwide figure and was wondering if Massachusetts has determined a more accurate and up to date cost for compliance. In addition, I believe that the federal government has provided grants to states who have adopted these regulations. I am curious if an inquiry has been made to determine what funding is available to offset the cost to our taxpayers.

In conclusion, I am reaching out to see the feasibility of our state complying with this federal law to ensure our state licenses do not lose their validity, as well as make certain this adoption does

not impose a heavy burden on our tax payers. Your assistance would be much appreciated.  
Please do not hesitate to contact me to further discuss this topic.

Sincerely,



Danielle W. Gregoire  
State Representative