



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

September 27, 2010

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

I understand that you are considering Senate Bill 621 which would preclude Pennsylvania from participating in the federal Real I.D. program. I recognize that some members of the legislature, and the general public, are opposed to any form of federal action requiring national standards for state identification cards. I understand that the desire to pass this legislation is motivated by this sentiment. In fact President Obama and Secretary Napolitano have expressed some of these same reservations.

I respect your position, although I do not entirely share it. As such, as drafted I have serious reservations about the legislation in its current form that would make it difficult for me to sign the bill into law. My chief concern is that should the federal government cede to lobbying by many states and organizations and make changes to the program that make it more acceptable, the Commonwealth would be precluded from participating in the program due to restrictive language in your legislation.

Should you amend your language to permit participation the Real I.D. program under some reasonable circumstances, I would urge you to include that such participation shall be predicated on sufficient funding from the federal government to meet its mandates.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell".

Edward G. Rendell
Governor