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April 17, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write regarding the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) plans to enforce REAL ID travel requirements beginning on May 7, 2025.

Following the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, Congress passed, and then-President George W. Bush signed, the REAL ID Act of 2005, which requires minimum security standards for driver's licenses or other identification of anyone seeking to board a domestic flight. Recognizing the time and complexity involved in switching to REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, President Trump signed legislation in 2020 that confirmed the Secretary of Homeland Security's discretion over when to begin enforcing this requirement. Last week, TSA confirmed that enforcement will begin on May 7th.

According to the TSA, around 20 percent of air travelers still use a form of identification that is not compliant with REAL ID requirements. Indeed, millions of Americans still do not have a REAL ID compliant license or an acceptable alternative form of identification, such as a passport or a military identification card. As you told the President at a recent cabinet meeting, "We don't want anybody to get delayed and not be able to travel when they get to an airport." Since it seems likely that many travelers will not have a compliant ID by May 7th, please describe how you will ensure that there are not delays at TSA security checkpoints and what steps the TSA is taking to process travelers who arrive at airport security checkpoints without REAL ID compliant identification.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator