



Homeland  
Security

MAY 22 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
C/O State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would like to congratulate you and the State of California for your efforts in supporting our shared goal of improving the security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

This letter serves as formal notification that DHS has made a final determination that California is in full compliance with the REAL ID Act and regulation. DHS has reviewed the information provided by California, including the updated corrective action plan and confirmation of formal implementation, and found that it has begun implementing a program that meets the standards of the Act and regulation.

With this notification, federal agencies may continue to accept for official purposes driver's licenses and identification cards issued California. As a reminder, starting October 1, 2020, only REAL ID-compliant licenses or identification cards will be acceptable for official purposes.

Because California has only been issuing REAL ID compliant documents for a short period of time, most residents of your state have likely not yet have obtained a REAL ID-compliant card. For the benefit of your residents, I strongly encourage you to take the steps necessary to inform your residents of the need to obtain a REAL ID-compliant card, or an acceptable alternative such as a U.S. passport, before the October 1, 2020 deadline, particularly if they have future plans to travel by air or visit a federal facility that requires identification for access purposes. Additionally, as a jurisdiction that also issues noncompliant cards, California will need to ensure that its residents fully understand that noncompliant cards will not be an acceptable form of identification for REAL ID official purposes.

I applaud California's leadership in enhancing the security of its driver's licenses and identification cards. Should you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact the REAL ID Program Office at [REDACTED]. For all other homeland security matters, please contact the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Neumann  
Assistant Secretary for Threat Prevention  
and Security Policy  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

cc: John H. Hill, Assistant Secretary, Office of Partnership and Engagement  
Mark Ghilarducci, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services