



NATIONAL ADVOCACY DAY INVESTING IN AMERICA

INVEST IN MAKING AMERICA SAFER THE "REAL ID ACT" OF 2005

The Legislation and Why it is Important

The "REAL ID Act of 2005" (H.R. 418) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in February. The Senate has not yet voted on the bill. If passed, the "REAL ID Act" would be very harmful to Latino communities.

- **The "REAL ID Act" would restrict immigrant access to driver's licenses.** Every person applying for a driver's license – even U.S. citizens – would have to prove legal status in the U.S. before obtaining a license. It would also create different types of licenses depending on a person's immigration status, opening the door to discrimination and abuse.
- **The "REAL ID Act" would give the Secretary of Homeland Security sweeping authority to waive all laws that would prohibit construction of barriers and roads along our nation's borders.** This means the U.S. government could ignore all environmental laws, minimum wage laws, workplace safety laws, and others in order to complete additional fencing along any U.S. border. More barriers along the borders will not stop the flow of undocumented migrants; it will lead to more border deaths.
- **The "REAL ID Act" would empower bail bondsmen and bounty hunters to pursue, arrest, and detain immigrants.** The bill would give bail bondsmen unprecedented power to pursue, arrest, and detain immigrants who have not yet completed removal proceedings, with no safeguards to protect the civil rights of immigrants or their U.S. citizen families. It would also give bail bondsmen access to information in government databases – with no privacy protections – to help them pursue immigrants.
- **The "REAL ID Act" would turn back victims of persecution, making it more difficult for those who may have legitimate claims for asylum to obtain it.** The "REAL ID Act" would require asylum applicants to prove that their persecutors' "central motive" for harming or wishing to harm them was race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
- **The "REAL ID Act" would trample fundamental American values, civil rights, and due process.** It would allow people to be deported *before* the conclusion of their federal court cases and would suspend the Great Writ of Habeas Corpus for the first time since the Civil War.

For More Information

For more information visit the National Council of La Raza's website at www.nclr.org or contact Michele Waslin at mwaslin@nclr.org or Flavia Jimenez at fjimenez@nclr.org.

www.nclr.org

Making a Difference for Hispanic Americans