

10       **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005**

20       **WHEREAS:**     In 2005, the United States Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005,  
30                             attached as a rider to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act  
40                             for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005; and,

50       **WHEREAS:**     The REAL ID Act establishes national standards that states are  
60                             expected to follow with regards to driver’s licenses and non-driver  
70                             identification cards, beginning in May 2008; and,

80       **WHEREAS:**     These standards include the physical features of a ID card, such as the  
90                             information required to be present on the card, security features to  
100                            prevent tampering, and a ‘common machine-readable technology, with  
110                            defined minimum data elements’; and,

120       **WHEREAS:**     The REAL ID standards also mandate that states require certain  
130                            documents (a photo identity document, proof of social security number,  
140                            document showing date of birth, and a document showing residence  
150                            before issuing a driver’s license and the verification and digital storage  
160                            of these documents; and,

170       **WHEREAS:**     REAL ID mandates security measures at state DMV’s including  
180                            physical security measures in places where driver’s licenses are  
190                            produced and background checks for DMV employees; and,

200       **WHEREAS:**     Furthermore, REAL ID mandates that states maintain databases of their  
210                            driver’s license information and that they link their databases to other  
220                            states; and,

230       **WHEREAS:**     Starting only three years after the passage of REAL ID, in May 2008,  
240                            federal agencies are no longer allowed to accept identification cards  
250                            from states that have not fully complied with REAL ID; and,

260       **WHEREAS:**     The cost of implementing REAL ID is substantial and due to very  
270                            limited federal grants, is essentially an unfunded mandate imposed  
280                            upon the states; according to the National Conference of State  
290                            Legislatures, the price tag imposed on the states is expected to top \$11  
300                            billion over five years; and,

310       **WHEREAS:**     REAL ID will require a substantial time commitment from the citizens  
320                            of the United States as well, requiring every license holder to collect  
330                            the necessary documents and visit their DMV in-person to renew their  
340                            driver’s license in the next five years; and,

350       **WHEREAS:**     By effectively creating a national ID card, the REAL ID Act is cause  
360                            for concern about the privacy of American citizens, especially due to  
370                            the fact that the legislation creates one interlinked national database – a  
380                            one stop shop for identity thieves; and,

390       **WHEREAS:**     REAL ID also enables the creation of private sector databases, because  
400                            banks, airlines, bars, etc. will be able to scan the machine-readable  
410                            information contained on every driver’s license across the country; and,

420       **WHEREAS:**     The benefits to the security of the United States are unknown and may

430 be nonexistent if it is still possible to forge REAL IDs; and,

440 **WHEREAS:** Five states – Maine, Montana, Washington, Arkansas and Idaho have  
450 passed legislation indicating their refusal to implement REAL ID and  
460 nine other states have passed similar legislation through at least one  
470 chamber of their legislature.

480 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the  
490 Maryland General Assembly to refuse to pass legislation or appropriate  
500 money to implement REAL ID; and,

510 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the  
520 United States Congress to repeal the REAL ID Act.

530 **MANDATES:** Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland  
540 Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, President of the Senate of Maryland  
560 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates  
570 George W. Bush, President of the United States  
580 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
590 Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the United States Senate  
600 The Maryland Congressional Delegation

**SPONSOR:**

Ryan Walden, Comptroller of the Maryland Student Legislature  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Email: [rwalden1@umbc.edu](mailto:rwalden1@umbc.edu)