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Dear Timothy:

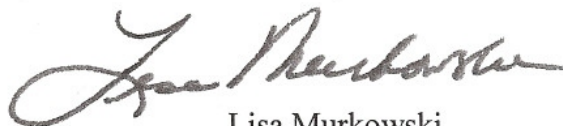
Thank you for contacting me regarding the repeal of the REAL ID Act. I appreciate receiving your views.

As you know, the REAL ID Act was enacted as part of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill of 2005. I would have preferred for the REAL ID Act to be considered as stand-alone legislation rather than included in an omnibus appropriations bill. The Senate's version of the supplemental did not contain the language of the REAL ID Act, and the Senate never had a chance to debate the language on its merits when it was included in the House-Senate conference report.

On March 8th, following the introduction of an amendment I cosponsored to delay implementation of REAL ID regulations for state-issued driver's licenses until two years after final regulations had been finalized, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced an agreement to allow states to request a deadline extension through December 31, 2009. DHS also will consult with the negotiated-rulemaking committee, composed of federal and state officials, on their proposed regulations to provide secure identification without unduly burdening states and without threatening fundamental privacy protections.

If legislation to repeal the REAL ID Act comes before the full Senate, I will keep your concerns in mind. Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator