

Assemblyman Steve Hawley: 2007 Community Safety Agenda

Dear Neighbor,

Governor Spitzer recently issued a unilateral order to grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens.* Given the critical importance of the issues surrounding homeland security and immigration, this is a rash mistake.

New Yorkers know too well the importance of maintaining the integrity and security of our identification documents. The September 11th hijackers were able to board planes because they all had driver's licenses or state issued identification. New York closed this security gap, but now Governor Spitzer wants to move us backward.

In the post 9/11 world, we simply cannot take chances with important identification and security documents.

In addition to being dangerous, Governor Spitzer's change in policy has been cited as being costly, a threat to the integrity of voter registration and possibly illegal. Governor Spitzer changed the policy without consulting elected representatives or holding public hearings.

If you, too, are strongly opposed to this dangerous change in policy, join me in urging Governor Spitzer to reconsider and rescind this action by signing my petition below. For additional copies, please contact my district office listed below.

Petition to Prevent Illegal Aliens from Receiving Driver's Licenses

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Name (Sign & Print)	Address, City, Zip Code	
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* The Governor and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles are in direct violation of state law which requires a Social Security Number be provided to obtain a driver's license (Section 502, subsection 1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law).

Assemblyman Steve Hawley is calling on the Governor and the DMV to act by October 31st to rescind this proposal, follow the law or face legal action.

The Federal Real ID Act and the proposed federal regulations to implement it require states to meet certain minimum security standards in order for state driver licenses to be acceptable. Requirements include an applicant produce evidence of a valid Social Security Number. Unlike Spitzer's plan, the only foreign documentation that would be accepted would be a foreign passport with a valid, current US Visa. The federal standards were developed to protect against identity fraud and to protect our national security.

Several county clerks, who run the local DMV offices across the state, have stated they disagree with the governor's plan to disregard state vehicle and traffic law and some have even said they will not enforce the Governor's scheme.