The REAL ID Act of 2005 is a federal government attempt to standardize all state issued drivers’ licenses and personal identification cards, in order to allow US citizens to board a federally — regulated airplane or access a federal facility, presumably to stop terrorism and prevent fraud.1

These would be the same federal facilities for which the US taxpayers have already paid, but for whom the government wants to restrict access.

What the REAL ID really does is invade the privacy of (and creates biometric profiles for) law-abiding US citizens; adds to an ever-increasing surveillance system monster called security; and lines the pocket books of insider former government officials.

All this while the Department of Homeland Security is in charge. Privacy...

“Under REAL ID, all new licenses would be machine-readable and contain personal information that could be scanned by governments and potentially by corporations.”2

The biometric data and the other personal data become part of both a national and international database of information, accessible not only by state agencies, but by the federal government and foreign governments, including Mexico and Canada.

Did anyone ask the American people if they wanted to be part of an internationally shared biometric database? What arrogance on the part of the federal government and their agencies to trample on the rights and dignity of the American people.

Bio means life...

Biometrics means using technology to measure biological information. This includes “1) scanning the anatomy being used, 2) the software to gather the information and convert it to digital form, and 3) the database to compare to stored data and determine authenticity and identification.”4

There is both physiological biometric data and behavioral biometric data.

Physiological biometric data includes:
• Facial feature pattern characteristics*
• Fingerprints*, palm prints, and other methods for measuring or recording ridge pattern or fingertip characteristics
• Retinal scans
• Hand geometry, measuring hand characteristics, including shape and length of fingers
• Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and/or ribonucleic acid (RNA)

Behavioral biometrics includes:
• Voice data used for comparing live speech with a previously created speech mode of a person’s voice
• Behavior characteristics of handwritten signature, such as shape, speed, pressure, pen angle, or sequence
• Keystroke dynamics, measuring pressure applied to keypads.5

* Photos using facial-recognition and fingerprints are part of the requirements of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety to obtain a state issued Drivers’ License or Identification card.

Surveillance systems...

This biometric database, fed by sources such as drivers’ license photos and fingerprinting, fits right in with the technology systems in place in other sectors — such as the global tracking systems for transportation and freight management. The same technology that scans a freight carrier can scan a vehicle and the passengers in it — and without their knowing.

Lockheed Martin has developed an “Information Integration” system called Total Domain Awareness, that:

What this means is every move made by any vehicle, whether truck, sea vessel, rail, or passenger car, can be tracked everywhere at anytime, in real time.
Oklahoma objects…

In 2007, Oklahoma lawmakers passed SB 464, which states that “The state of Oklahoma shall not participate in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005.”

SB 464 further stated that the REAL ID “is inimical to the security and well-being of the people of Oklahoma, will cause approximately Eight Million Dollar ($8,000,000) in added expense and inconvenience to our state, and was adopted by the United States Congress in violation of the principles of federalism contained in the Tenth Amendment to United States Constitution.”

Governor Brad Henry supported SB 464 and signed off on this piece of legislation, which became effective on 11/1/07.

The bill further calls for the retrieval of “any biometric data previously collected, obtained, or retained in connection with motor vehicle registration or operation …. shall be retrieved and deleted from any and all databases” that had anything to do with the REAL ID.

Conclusion…

It is important for the citizens of Oklahoma to contact their legislators AND Governor Brad Henry and tell them you want no part of the REAL ID “Global Security Envelope.”

Biometric information belongs to the individual, not the state, and should not be shared with other agencies, other countries, or any corporations.

To find you Legislator click here. Or call 1-800-522-8502.
To contact Governor Brad Henry, click here. Or call (405) 521-2342.

Endnotes:

4 http://webhost.bridgew.edu/jcolby/it525/definition.html
5 ibid.
6 OK Open Records, NASCO Corridors of the Future Proposal, 2006; Available at www.ok-safe.com
9 “The merger positions the new company as a market leader in the biometrics sector. The combined capabilities allow the new company to effectively compete for approximately 80 percent of a market opportunity projected by Frost & Sullivan to reach $3.5 billion by 2008.”
11 Visit our website: www.ok-safe.com