



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 19, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

On April 11, 2016, I submitted a letter to then-Secretary Jeh Johnson, requesting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to grant an extension that would allow Minnesotans to continue to use their Minnesota driver's licenses for federal identification purposes. That request was denied, in part, because the Minnesota Legislature had passed a law in 2009 prohibiting the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety from implementing or planning to implement REAL ID. As a result of that legislation, Minnesota's driver's license is not REAL ID compliant and Minnesotans are unable to use their Minnesota licenses to enter federal buildings or military bases. In addition, they will be unable to use their current Minnesota licenses to board commercial aircraft, beginning January 22, 2018.

In Secretary Johnson's letter denying my request, he commended the State of Minnesota's efforts that resulted in the enactment of legislation permitting the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to begin planning to implement the requirements of the REAL ID Act and federal regulations. He acknowledged that the change was a positive step forward; however, he stated that while the enacted legislation allowed the state to undertake planning, it did not change the prohibition in state law against "taking any action to implement." He further stated that until Minnesota demonstrated it had the legal authority to implement the requirements of the REAL ID Act and committed to full compliance, DHS would not grant a request for an extension.

I am very pleased to report to you that the Minnesota Legislature has just passed a bill, which I have signed into law, authorizing compliance with the REAL ID Act and providing a path forward for implementing the required standards. Thus, I write today to request a compliance extension, which, I understand, would allow Minnesota's current licenses to be used for all federal purposes, while we complete the steps necessary to provide REAL ID compliant licenses to Minnesota citizens. I assure you that we will proceed as swiftly as possible to complete this process.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor