

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO
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August 12, 2010

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees and the 110,000 federal employees our union represents throughout the United States and abroad, we would like to express our support for the Passport Identification Verification Act, legislation designed to increase Passport Services' ability to accurately determine identity and citizenship.

Passport employees have historically had to rely on guesswork as well as established fact in approving passport applications. Two Government Accounting Office fraud tests in two years have conclusively demonstrated the current passport system is not always capable of detecting passport fraud

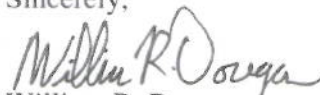
Theft of U.S. identities has long been used to further illegal immigration, social security fraud, and flight of suspected felons from the country. Fraudulent acquisition of identity documents has been used to enable terrorist acts inside and outside the United States.


The Passport Identification Verification Act (S. 3666) addresses these national security risks. This bill will classify identity verifications by Passport Services as law enforcement activities for the purpose of information sharing among government agencies. It will also provide for real-time access to data from the National Crime Information Center.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of additional resources, we believe the agency will need to permit adequate time to allow the databases to be used, as well as provide access for those who adjudicate passport applications.

NFFE strongly supports this legislation. We thank you for introducing the Passport Identification Verification Act (S. 3666) and stand ready to assist you in helping this bill become law.

Sincerely,


William R. Dougan
National President


Robert Arnold
President, NFFE Local 1998



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