

## REAL ID

### STATEMENT OF LAUREN BEYER VICE PRESIDENT, SECURITY AND FACILITATION, AIRLINES FOR AMERICA BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE BUDGET SUB 2 COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2020

Good morning Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committees. My name is Lauren Beyer, and I am the Vice President for Security and Facilitation at Airlines for America (A4A). Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss REAL ID.

Effective October 1, 2020, travelers will be required to have a REAL ID compliant driver's license or alternate approved identification to pass through TSA checkpoints at airports, the final enforcement deadline of the *REAL ID Act of 2005*.

We appreciate both Committees' leadership in raising awareness about the potential disruption to air travel in October of this year for those passengers who are not prepared with a REAL ID compliant driver's license or other form of identification.

U.S. airlines have been working closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to amplify their REAL ID messaging and to direct travelers to the appropriate web sites to ensure they are educated about how to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification card.

Over the last year, A4A and our members have undertaken a variety of activities to highlight this issue. For example, our coalition wrote the states' governors asking them to join us in making the public more aware of the upcoming deadline. Since consumers in many states still have the choice between a non-compliant ID, the states need to play a key role in ensuring that consumers understand that even some new IDs may not be compliant for air travel. We also asked the governors to consider revising communications to their residents to make clear the difference between REAL ID compliant and non-compliant IDs.

Additional activities of note include:

- A4A brought together TSA's communications team and communicators from travel industry organizations, including carriers, airports and other groups, in June 2019 to begin robust collaboration on outreach efforts.
- A4A participated in the TSA press conference on October 1, 2019, to highlight our respective campaigns.
- A4A prepared a REAL ID toolkit for use by legislators at the federal, state and local levels as well as industry communicators to help get the word out.
- A4A launched a REAL ID website – [realidfacts.com](http://realidfacts.com) – to further educate travelers on the new rules. The webpage includes an interactive state-by-state map to address differences in state identification requirements.
- The website also features A4A's 30 second REAL ID commercial, which aired on DC's FOX5 during the Super Bowl's pre-game coverage.

- A4A testified in front of the Senate Commerce Security Subcommittee on REAL ID and participated in other roundtables and briefings to raise Congressional awareness.
- A4A provides regular media statements and interviews to help amplify messaging.

U.S. airlines also are employing a variety of methods to prominently share information such as posting notices of the change on their websites, in-flight magazines and social media, as well as showing videos on their in-flight entertainment systems. Many carriers are providing travelers with useful information in emails, reservation confirmations and check-in reminders. In addition, airlines are proactively engaging with airports, travel agencies, corporate clients and elected officials to heighten awareness about the REAL ID deadline.

Since DHS and TSA have not given any indication of a willingness to extend the deadline, we are committed to keeping up the momentum in educating the public in order to ensure that the 2.45 million people who travel every day will be able to flow through the system as seamlessly as possible.

Thank you, we appreciate the opportunity to testify and I look forward to any questions.