

QUESTION 4-a

In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include: Social Security Card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

Rate: _____ *High Priority* _____ *Lower Priority* _____ *Disagree* _____ *No Consensus*

A unique identifier would be required, which would probably not be the social security number. The current Social Security database is claimed to have an error rate of 4.1 percent.

What is a “secure identifier?” a physical form of identification that is difficult to copy, difficult to forge, resistant to fraudulent use, and difficult to obtain. Fraudulent use includes using someone else’s ID or using an expired or otherwise invalid ID. Minimizing fraud might include the use of biometric identifiers such as fingerprint, retinal scan, or DNA coding. A secure system would have stringent requirements for proving one’s identity before issuing, would enforce document verification, and have a way of dealing with lost cards that was comparable in strictness.

Uses a standardized, machine-readable data format.

SAY NO to RFID (radio frequency identification) – too easy to steal information on card.

RELATED INFORMATION – the REAL ID

The **REAL ID Act of 2005**, adopted as part of a must pass-military appropriations bill, requires all states to bring their driver’s licenses under a national standard and to link their record-keeping systems. It sets minimum national standards that states must use when issuing driver's licenses and other forms of identification. Required information includes date of birth, verification of Social Security number, and proof of citizenship or immigration status. The identification cards will contain a machine-readable technology, that is common to all states.

The identification card will display the full legal name, a unique identification number, a digital photo, address of principal residence, date of birth, gender, signature, issue and expiration dates, and physical security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication for fraudulent purposes. Exceptions may be possible.

Under the act, all state driver's license databases would be linked with each other in one system with shared access.

By Dec. 31, 2009, states must include a check for lawful status of all applicants, to ensure that illegal aliens cannot obtain REAL ID licenses. Enrollment will be completed for all individuals under 50 years of age by Dec. 1, 2014. For all others, enrollment may be extended three additional years to Dec. 1, 2017.

The Real ID will be required for access to Federal facilities, boarding Federally-regulated commercial aircraft, entry into nuclear power plants, and **such other purposes as established by the Secretary of Homeland Security**.

The Act also permits a State otherwise in compliance with the Act to issue driver's licenses and identification cards that do not conform to the Act's requirements. Such licenses/cards cannot be used for an official purpose and must clearly state on the face of the card that a Federal agency may not use it for an official purpose. The State also must use a unique design or color indicator so that it is readily apparent to Federal agency personnel that the card is not to be accepted for an official purpose.

Major problems: Overconfidence in the system, correction of identity theft, sale of info to government, and

OTHER NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION

The Washington Post (22 Dec 2007) states that the FBI is building the world’s largest computer database of peoples’ physical characteristics in Clarksburg, West Virginia. This will contain digital images of faces, fingerprints, and palm prints. In some cases, the department of Homeland Security is storing iris patterns and DNA information. The Department of Homeland Security has been using iris scans at some airports to verify the identity of travelers who have passed background checks and who want to move through lines quickly. Privacy advocates worry about the ability of people to correct false information.