

## California State Senator Gilbert Cedillo Responds to Real ID Act

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Los Angeles, CA ([PRWEB](#)) February 16, 2005 -- House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wisconsin, was successful in bringing a House of Representatives floor vote on his driver's license reform legislation, H.R. 418 (dubbed the REAL ID Act). Although many were skeptical as to its passage, victory seemed certain after the White House threw its support behind it. Thursday's vote total came to 261-161 in favor. The contentious debate and subsequent vote marks the beginning of what could be months of heated exchanges on changing America's immigration laws and how states issue driver's licenses.

"This week's debate on driver's licenses and subsequent vote is validation of what I've been talking about for the last seven years -- we need driver's license reform," said state Senator Gilbert A. Cedillo, D-Los Angeles. "This has been the center of debate here in California for the past few years and it has now bubbled up to the national level. While I disagree with some provisions in the bill, I like the fact that people in the process of legalization will be able to train and test for a driver's license. In California alone, this equates to over one million people. It also harkens back to the days before 1994 where for 65 years the mission of DMV was simply to test motorists on the rules of the road.

"Although Rep. Sensenbrenner's bill is actually less restrictive than current California law, the problem is that it doesn't go far enough. California needs to make sure that every motorist is trained, tested and insured. Of the estimated 20 million people that take to the roads every day in the Golden State, nearly 10% do so without a license and insurance. That is unacceptable.

"I have proposed Senate Bill 60, The Immigrant Responsibility and Security Act, as a way to not only make our roads and highways safer, but also to strengthen national security. My driver's license reform proposal calls for every applicant -- be they undocumented or in the process -- to provide 10 fingerprints, a picture ID card, their address, submit to Homeland Security background checks, have their name run against the counterterrorism watch list, and a passport or consular ID card.

"Law enforcement likes The Immigrant Responsibility and Security Act because it brings hundreds of thousands, if not more than 2 million, of people out of the shadows and into the process. A majority of California voters will support it because they understand that the status quo is unacceptable and that my bill will bridge the gap between promoting immigrant responsibility and strengthening public safety and national security. Suffice to say, H.R. 418 is good as far as it goes on the aspect of driver's licenses, but it does not go far enough; SB 60 does and should be a national model for how states issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants."



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<http://democrats.sen.ca.gov/templates/SDCTemplate.asp?cp=MemberPage&pg=senhome&sln=Cedillo&sdn=22&zr>

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