

STATE OF COLORADO

Department of State

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Mike Coffman

Secretary of State

William A. Hobbs

Deputy Secretary of State

April 27, 2007

The Honorable Bill Ritter
Governor
State of Colorado
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB07-1313 – Concerning the issuance of Colorado driver's licenses

Dear Governor Ritter:

As Colorado's chief elections official, I urge you to veto House Bill 07-1313, sponsored by Representative Rosemary Marshall (D-Denver). This legislation significantly weakens the identity documents required to obtain a Colorado driver's license or identification card.

A driver's license is the most commonly presented form of identification when registering to vote in the State of Colorado.

Colorado's voter registration identification requirements are already dangerously loose. As public officials tasked with preserving our political processes, we should work to strengthen our voter registration identification requirements, not further weaken them, as HB07-1313 would do.

In addition to the concerns surrounding voter registration, weakening the requirements for obtaining a driver's license will also pose a financial and security risk to Americans.

The documents listed as acceptable identification in order to obtain a driver's license in this legislation may be easily altered or reproduced with a personal computer; these documents are not verifiable or secure. Weakening the security standards surrounding the issuance of the document used by millions of Americans to board an airplane, and that is the nation's de facto form of identification, is bad public policy.

I respectfully urge you to veto HB07-1313. This legislation would diminish the integrity of the driver's license for identification purposes, and thus adversely impact the integrity of our voter registration process.

Sincerely,

Mike Coffman

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