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For Immediate Release
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Rehberg REAL ID Watch

*Congressman's views on National ID Cards
continue to change*

(Helena, Mont.) - It seems as if Congressman Dennis Rehberg's having a tough time balancing his position on National Identification Cards. On one hand he has his allegiance to President Bush, the Department of Homeland Security, and other Washington bureaucrats looking to make every Montanan get a REAL ID. And on the other hand he has the overwhelming majority of Montanans that oppose the de-facto National ID system.



Rehberg was an early supporter of the legislation and his office has said that the law--which would create a central database of sensitive information--is "misunderstood."

As other Montana leaders have unified in their vocal opposition to REAL ID--which would seriously violate Montanans privacy and cost the state millions, Congressman Rehberg has quietly taken nearly every position imaginable.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE--Rehberg's record on REAL ID:

- **I SUPPORT IT!** May 5, 2005: The Lee State Bureau reports that Rehberg, "supports the idea" of REAL ID cards. [[Billings Gazette](#), 5/5/2005]
- **WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THIS BEFORE?** May 6, 2005: After voting for the REAL ID Act (HR 418), Congressman Rehberg sent out a press release praising the passage of the legislation, saying it's "something states should have been doing all along." [[Rehberg Press Release](#), 5/6/2005]
- **YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW GREAT IT IS!** January 24, 2007: After introduction of a bill in the Montana House of Representatives that would make Montana the first state in the country to say 'no' on REAL ID, Congressman Rehberg stood strong with President Bush and against Montana on the legislation. "Rehberg's spokesman, Bridger Pierce, said the law was misunderstood and did not infringe on personal liberties. 'This act just made it a little tougher for terrorists to get a state-issued driver's license,' Pierce said." [[The Associated Press](#), 1/24/2007]

- **UH-OH...OH YEAH, I'M AGAINST IT, TOO.** April 18, 2007: With a signature from the Governor and a unanimous vote from the Legislature, Montana had officially become the first state to "outright deny its implementation." After years of championing the ID Cards, Rehberg had a staffer quietly email the AP saying that he's "also against it." [[The Associated Press](#), 4/18/2007]
- **TIME TO WALK A THIN LINE...** March 14, 2008: With the "deadline looming," Congressman Rehberg sought to shield himself and his position(s) on the issue from criticism and lashed out at the Governor for trying to stop REAL ID. Rehberg said, "The coalition of support the governor has consistently referred to has vaporized." [[The Associated Press](#), 3/14/2008]
- **OH, I GUESS THEY WERE RIGHT.** March 22, 2008: Despite calls from Rehberg to buckle to the pressure his D.C. buddies were dishing out, the Feds waived the white flag...no thanks to Denny. The Department of Homeland Security announced that they wouldn't penalize Montana for not complying with the latest Big Brother program. [[Billings Gazette](#), 3/22/2008]

One can only wonder where Congressman Rehberg's journey on REAL ID and privacy will take us next.

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