



May 28, 2026

RE: State-to-State Verification System (S2S) Project Budget Request

Dear LGBTQ Caucus members

Rainbow Families Action urges the LGBTQ Caucus to **oppose** the Department of Motor Vehicles's \$56 million 2026/27 budget request for the *State-to-State Verification System (S2S) Project*. We stand by our immigrant and mixed status families who would be betrayed by suddenly changing California law that promises not to share their information in this way. It is also clear that there are serious questions that need to be answered for everyone. As we saw recently in Kansas, the forces of hate are all too willing to use Driver's License data to identify and disenfranchise transgender citizens. We must not rush a decision with irreversible consequences for California's most vulnerable residents before critical questions about oversight, privacy, and federal misuse have been answered.

When the Real ID Act passed, who could have imagined a federal administration so willing to test laws combined with the enormous leap AI has brought to collecting and analyzing data at lightning speed on a massive scale? Most states joined before this happened. We cannot act like our current political environment is irrelevant. This administration has already made statements defining LGBTQ advocates as domestic terrorists, and has made relentless attempts to capture the data of trans minors. Without thoughtful implementation, there is every reason to believe that they would take advantage of this opportunity to collect data and target citizens, AS THEY ARE ALREADY DOING.

How would abuse of the system be prevented and litigated? We have learned the hard way that this question must be addressed. California's Attorney General was able to push back on a first wave of baseless subpoenas of transgender patients' private medical records, but it is uncertain if they have a mandate or standing to prevent the new wave happening now. No one foresaw this happening. There is a bill (AB 1930) moving through our legislature right now to try to close this gap for abortion and gender affirming care medical records in our state. We are playing catch up and in some cases we may be too late. Now our eyes are open and we should take time to discuss and find the best way forward.

People who have Real IDs knew some information would be shared, but most understandably assumed it would be very well controlled and protected. Instead Californians are being asked to

trust a third-party non-profit with no defined oversight, no accountability mechanism — and whose own privacy assessment is unavailable to the public without a paid subscription. There are too many questions to rush. We need transparency.

We urgently ask for the LGBTQ Caucus members who are on the budget committee to lead the effort to remove this item from the budget, and for the caucus to make it clear to everyone that we must not rush forward on an artificial deadline driving a decision that cannot be taken back or cleaned up later. All of California's residents deserve a careful and transparent approach to how our personal information is shared.

Sincerely,

Rainbow Families Action

Lyon Martin Community Health
Trans Family Support Services
Harvey Milk Democratic Club
PFLAG San Francisco
PFLAG Tri Valley
PFLAG Fremont/Tri-Cities
PFLAG Danville/San Ramon Valley
PFLAG Clayton-Concord
PFLAG Los Angeles