

Senator McElveen



March 21, 2017

**TO: Members of the South Carolina Senate**

**RE: H.3358/S.201 – ID Cards (Support)**

Dear Members:

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce supports the passage of H.3358 and S.201, both of which provide a framework for the issuance and renewal of state driver's licenses and identification cards to comply with standards set forth in the federal Real ID Act of 2005. The compliance deadline of January 31, 2017 was extended by DHS upon the request of former Governor Haley until June 6, 2017, contingent upon the state's commitment to attain compliance.

Failure to achieve compliance could place significant burdens on all South Carolinians, effectively requiring our citizens to apply for and carry a federally issued identification document (i.e., passport) in order to conduct many regular activities. The free flow of commerce, access to federally regulated areas, and essential travel would otherwise be tremendously impacted. H.3358 provides workable options for achieving compliance and ensuring that South Carolina businesses can continue to operate efficiently and effectively.

Please note that the **vote on legislation to achieve REAL ID compliance** will be considered for the Chamber's *2017 Legislative Scorecard*.

For questions, please contact: *Mark Harmon, Vice President of Public Policy*, at [864-490-2138](tel:864-490-2138) or [mark.harmon@scchamber.net](mailto:mark.harmon@scchamber.net).

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