

BESTT COALITION

Border Crossing ID Regulations

Key Messages in Support of an Enhanced Driver's License

1. Potential new Federal laws in place by 2008 will require anyone, including a U.S. Citizen, who crosses into the U.S. from Canada, to possess a passport or a similar secure document. With this new regulation in place the country may lose millions, especially as the U.S. pursues a unilateral approach to addressing border security problems, rather than directly engaging its neighbors in a solution.
2. The BESTT Coalition is in support of an enhanced driver's license as a cost-effective and easy method to address new Federal needs for more secure documentation when passing the U.S. Canadian borders.
3. The BESTT coalition and other U.S. leaders are in D.C. at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to inform mayors in major U.S. cities about the potential combined U.S. economic loss that could affect their region.
4. A new poll commissioned by the BESTT coalition reveals that both Americans and Canadians are less likely to continue spontaneous cross-border trips because roundtrip travel becomes more expensive and less convenient.
5. The Conference Board of Canada predicts that current plans could result nationwide in 3.5 million fewer crossings from Canada to the U.S. and more than twice this number from the U.S. to Canada. The result in a loss of \$785 million annually by the U.S. and a \$1.7 billion loss to Canada.
6. Proposed federal documentation requirements are likely to do little to address central security concerns, as those willing to commit terrorist acts will continue seeking ways to do so.

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Additional Key Messages in Support of an Enhanced Driver's License (Based on Zogby Poll Results)

1. The Zogby Poll commissioned by the BESTT coalition reveals that, while more Americans cross into Canada than Canadians into the U.S., on a per-person basis, Canadians cross more frequently. According to the poll, Canadians are more likely to cross the border into the U.S. (48% at least a few times a year) than Americans are to cross into Canada (17% at least a few times a year).
2. About equal percentages of Americans and Canadians spend between \$100 and \$500 dollars on each individual trip into the other country (41% and 44% respectively). Canadians are twice as likely as Americans to spend more than \$500 (35% vs. 18%). ***Under current proposals Canadians cannot obtain a passport alternative (i.e., the PASS card or Canadian equivalent) to cross the U.S. border.***
3. The documentation issue is not just a traditional border issue but extends well beyond it. A majority of Canadians who visit America travel more than 100 miles from the border on their visits. Just 12% travel less than 25 miles, and 10% travel between 25-50 miles. Other sources reveal that Canadians spend more in states like Florida, California and Nevada than even along the border.
4. Neither Americans nor Canadians are familiar with the proposed documentation charges along the border, which will mean confusion and problems at the border when new requirements are implemented. Among Americans, 87% say they are either not familiar (59%) or somewhat familiar (28%) with changes in requirements. Among Canadians, 82% say they are either not very familiar (40%) or somewhat familiar (42%). Non-passport holders from both countries are least likely to be at all familiar and most likely to be affected by the new documentation changes.
5. More than one third of American non-passport holders (34.5%) and nearly one third of Canadian non-passport holders (29.2%) say they will be less likely to cross the border if they need a passport or other proposed alternative (e.g., the PASS card) to do so.
6. Looking at just those without a passport, less than 9% of Americans say they would be very likely to purchase a new ID card to cross the U.S./Canada border only, but the percentage jumps to 39% when the document is combined with a driver's license.
7. Canadian non-passport holders more often say they would be very likely to purchase a new ID card to cross the U.S./Canada border only, but the percentage remains less than 24%, with over 40% saying they are not very likely to do so. The percentage saying they very likely would obtain a new ID card jumps to 49% when combined with a driver's license.
8. More often than not Americans and Canadians travel with families to for vacation. Of Americans polled, only 19.2% said they would very likely pay for a border crossing ID card for each family member. Among Canadians, 31% are not willing to buy a border crossing ID card for everyone in their family.

9. Of the American and Canadian non-passport holders polled, 21.5% and 23.5% respectively think the best place to purchase a new border crossing ID card is the department of motor vehicles.
10. Both American passport and non-passport holders support combining their driver's license and border crossing ID cards (52.4% and 53.7% respectively). Among Canadian passport and non-passport holders, the results were 40% and 50% respectively.
11. Americans primarily are not concerned about a combined border ID card/driver's license infringing on their civil liberties; 55% are not concerned while 24% are only somewhat concerned.
12. Of American non-passport holders, 29.6% are willing to pay less than \$25 for a new ID card for border crossing, and 49% say they are not willing to pay anything. Of Canadian non-passport holders, 57% say they will pay between \$25 and \$50 for a new ID card, yet more than 30% say they are not willing to pay anything. The current U.S. passport alternative, the PASS card, is proposed to cost \$55, well beyond the demand point of both Americans and Canadians.