

# House of Representatives State of Tennessee



Contact: Kara Watkins (615) 741-1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dear Friends:

I thought the following would be useful information.

## **NEW TRAVEL LAWS BEGAN JANUARY 23, 2007**

The proposed implementation timeline has two phases:

- As of January 23, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda will be required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document or an Alien Registration Card, Form 1-551, if applicable,
- As early as January 1, 2008, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South American, the Caribbean and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), may be required to present a valid passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible. Ample advance notice will be provided to enable the public to obtain passports or passport cards for land/sea entries.

The passport requirement does NOT apply to U.S. citizens traveling to or returning directly from a U.S. territory. U.S. citizens returning directly from a U.S. territory are not considered to have left the United States and do not need to present a passport. U.S. territories include the following: Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

### **Travel Documents for U.S. Citizens Under WHTI**

Under the proposed implementation plan, the following documents will be acceptable to

fulfill document requirements:

- U.S. Passport: U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda and may also use a U.S. passport when traveling via sea and land borders (including ferry crossings).

- The Passport Card (also referred to as the PASS Card): This limited-use passport in card format is currently under development and will be available for use for travel only via land or sea (including ferries) between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. Similar in size to a credit card, it will fit easily into a wallet.
- DOS and DHS also anticipate that the following documents will continue to be acceptable for their current travel uses under WHTI: SENTRI, NEXUS, FAST and the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document. As proposed, members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty traveling on orders will continue to be exempt from the passport requirement.

Sincerely,

Donna Rowland  
State Representative  
34th Legislative District