

January 8, 2007

Identity Theft Task Force, P065410

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing public comment on this important issue.

I feel that government documents such as SSN cards, Passports, etc. have been too easy to forge/counterfeit, or get real ones with phony paperwork, or bad information, for too long. A legal citizen has difficulty getting around government agencies and paperwork, but crooks don't seem to have any problems at all. The reason is that normal good citizens try to follow all the laws and rules and get nothing but red tape for their efforts. Crooks don't care about laws or rules and seem to get by much easier than Joe Citizen. I think that it is time to start a national database of fingerprint and DNA information that would be available to the public. If I had to provide a cheek swab for DNA or fingerprint to conduct a large business transaction that might slow down identify theft. Stores would have to have access to the database to confirm Id, but I think that type of database would correct many problems in this country. That same database could be used to arrest wanted parties and track the identity of illegal aliens, terrorists, etc.

I know it is a lot like "Big Brother is watching," and many liberals won't want the government to have that information, but things are getting out of control in this world and this is one way to get the control back. Sometimes you have to give up some freedom to stay free. This database would be much better at tracking terrorists than we are currently doing. It would have to be a rule that to travel into our country, the visitor would be required to supply a passport, fingerprint and cheek swab, or entry into the country would be denied. Even if people lied during their entry, the match would be made the next time they came into the country and their next phony identity would set off a match to their first entry. Just like police do now, base the database not on a name, but on the fingerprint/DNA classification. That way it wouldn't matter on the name, so Bill or William or complete different names wouldn't matter. That same database could be used for credit purchases, etc. It would allow more data to be collected easier by everyone, because it would be based on something similar to AFIS or CODIS. It could be merged with what is done to everyone in the Military and those databases could be merged. A countrywide ID card could then be issued, based on that database, which would have the fingerprint/DNA information encoded on the ID card that could be compared to the person on the spot. In other words, slip the ID card into a reader to supply a name and have the person use a touch screen to confirm the fingerprint for ID. Even if the card were counterfeited, the fingerprint would be maintained for later correct identification use to identify the person who really made the purchase. I don't see any problems with the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment because nothing in the constitution that says a store can't deny a purchase to anyone as long as it is not based on race, etc. Therefore, a customer would voluntarily give his print or just not make the purchase. Self-incrimination would not be an issue because the person only has not to make the illegal purchase not be guilty or have given their fingerprint. I know that DNA testing is expensive, but the price is coming down, and fingerprint technology is so commonplace that most new laptop computers come with that ability. We need to make some changes and a national ID card based on fingerprint/DNA is the way to start.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

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