

REAL ID SAMPLE OP-ED

This sample op-ed is designed to inspire your editorial outreach. Replace anything in **red** with destination/organization-specific details, tailoring to best fit your voice and message. Pitch your op-ed to your local or regional newspaper to help get America #REALIDready.

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ARE YOU REAL ID READY?

Starting October 1 security requirements at U.S. airports are changing, including at **[AIRPORT / AIRPORT CODE]**, and all Americans aged 18 and up will be required to present a REAL ID-compliant identification at security checkpoints in order to board a flight. If you do not have a REAL ID (or an [acceptable alternative](#) like a U.S. passport or military ID) you are not REAL ID ready and you won't be able to fly next fall.



According to a study done by U.S. Travel Association, 99 million Americans do not currently have any form of ID that will be accepted after October 1. And about 57% of all Americans are unaware of the approaching deadline for full REAL ID compliance.

If REAL ID were implemented today, it is estimated that nearly 80,000 travelers would be turned away at airport security on the first day.

The 2020 deadline is the culmination of the REAL ID law first passed by Congress in 2005, which mandated uniform standards for government-issued IDs in order to make them more secure. Implementation of the policy has been delayed for 14 years in order to give states, federal agencies, and the public time to comply, but now the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has announced October 1 as the final date for full enforcement.

If you're one of the many who feels caught off-guard, don't panic: you've got time to get prepared. Here's how:

Check your current license. Most REAL IDs feature a star in the upper portion of the card—but there are a few exceptions. In **[state]**, you can tell your driver's license is likely compliant if **[distinguishing feature (e.g. gold star, gold circle with star cut out, the words "enhanced driver's license", a certain type of U.S. flag)]**.

If your license does **not** feature **[distinguishing feature]**, or you're unsure, it's time to get in touch with the DMV.

[Resources for obtaining a REAL ID in your state, such as DMV websites or helplines, documents needed, etc.]

Now is the time to start preparing for October. Get your paperwork squared away and plan your trip to the DMV before lines get longer.

If you absolutely cannot get to the DMV in time, make sure you have an alternative form of acceptable identification, such as a passport, passport card, U.S. military ID, Global Entry card, among several other options. You can find this information on [TSA's website](#).

It's critical we all do our part to make sure we're prepared for October 1. Take steps now to get REAL ID ready and spread the word to your family and friends. A little bit of planning now will make all the difference next year.

To learn more about REAL ID, visit tsa.gov/real-id or dhs.gov/real-id.