July 1, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
US Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich
US Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Akaka and Voinovich:

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs, representing the 56 largest jurisdictions in the Nation, we are pleased to support the Providing for Additional Security in States’ Identification Act of 2009 (PASS ID).

Establishing positive identity is a critical tool for law enforcement. Being able to detect fraudulent identification gives law enforcement a fundamental edge against criminals and terrorists seeking to conceal their true identity. That is why the chiefs support the 9/11 Commission recommendation to strengthen the security and integrity of identification.

We believe that PASS ID provides a realistic solution and will help secure many forms of identification against fraud. We also believe that achieving positive identification can be done while protecting civil liberties and privacy. PASS ID excels where and REAL ID fails by allowing the States the flexibility and innovation needed to meet the requirements of the 9/11 Commission’s recommendation.

Thank you for your hard work on this measure and be assured that the chiefs in America’s largest jurisdictions stand ready to work with you as this legislation moves forward.

All the best,

William J. Bratton
Chief of Police, Los Angeles, California
President, Major Cities Chiefs’ Association