



News From
SCOTT GARRETT 
U.S. Congress

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Garrett Works to Enhance National Border Security *Matricular IDs Should Not be Accepted for Official Purposes*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As this session of Congress closed for the year, Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ-05) introduced legislation, H.R. 3674, the Financial Customer Identification Verification Improvement Act, which will prohibit the use of identification cards issued by foreign governments, including matricular consular cards, for purposes of verifying the identity of a person who opens an account at a financial institution.

“Aside from aiding and abetting illegal immigration, acceptance of the consular ID cards is placing American security matters in the hands of foreign governments,” said Garrett. “Easy access to banking and financial institutions was one of the critical weaknesses in our system exploited by terrorists on September 11th. This practice must be stopped – this legislation works to do just that.”

The Mexican government has successfully lobbied many states and local government and businesses to accept matricular consular identification cards used by Mexican nationals living in the U.S. to establish identity, open bank accounts, cash checks, use for various social services and airline travel.

“There’s no way around the fact that consular ID cards are only needed by people who aren’t legally in the U.S. in the first place,” said Garrett. “Every legal non-citizen should possess identity documents issued by the U.S. government, such as a valid visa or a passport. Businesses or communities that accept any other form of ID from legal aliens as valid are turning their back on immigration and our nation’s national security.”

Because of the growing acceptance of the matricular consular cards, several other foreign governments are preparing to issue similar cards to their own citizens living illegally here. The growing use of such cards would effectively take U.S. national security matters, identity verification and other crucial issues out of U.S. government control.

“Changes since September 11th should be implemented to make it more difficult for illegal aliens to remain in the U.S., not easier,” said Garrett. “By accepting these cards, businesses and local communities are working against the federal government’s national security efforts.”

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