

# UNREAL IDEA

## H.R. 418 has something for everyone to hate.

### **Statue of Liberty toppled.**

Asylum seekers will find no refuge in H.R. 418. A judge could deny asylum based solely on an applicant's "demeanor" rather than the evidence. Torture victims would be sent back to their torturers while waiting for their U.S. appeals to be heard.

### **Checks unbalanced.**

For the first time since the Civil War, H.R. 418 prohibits judicial review, including habeas corpus, for certain detentions or deportation orders. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be empowered to waive federal, state and local laws, including environmental laws, without court review.

### **Stalked and battered women exposed.**

Many states now permit battered women to use a non-residence address on their driver's license for

Every piece of legislation has its detractors.

But this time, something different is happening. And that something is H.R. 418, the so-called "Real ID" law.

H.R. 418 is poorly conceived, overreaching and counterproductive. It's a legislative nightmare waiting to happen. That's why more than 600 organizations from across the political spectrum have jointly declared our opposition (visit [www.unrealidea.org](http://www.unrealidea.org) to see the list).

Last year, there was an unsuccessful attempt to attach this legislation to intelligence reform. Now it's back again, trying to piggyback on emergency funding for U.S. soldiers and tsunami victims.

Sweeping legislation like this ought to be fully examined in hearings and fairly debated on the floor, not rushed through the back door.

Unfortunately, the House has done just that. It's up to the Senate to say that "Real ID" is an unreal idea.

given access to confidential law enforcement files on noncitizens. They'll also have a new financial incentive: The power to arrest noncitizens even when they meet the terms of their bonds, solely on the bounty hunter's opinion that they might flee.

self-protection. H.R. 418 would overrule these state laws, making it much easier for an abuser to track down his estranged family.

### **DMV lines extended.**

Under H.R. 418, even ordinary Americans won't be able to get a driver's license until a DMV clerk verifies their residency documentation (like an electric bill or mortgage check) with the issuing bank or utility company. Of course, no funds are provided for additional staff. So everyone will have to wait. And wait.

### **Law enforcement outsourced.**

Private bounty hunters under H.R. 418 will be