

PASSPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

Formal Legislative and Agency Petition

Subject: Establishment of a Secure Pre-Travel Passport Validity Verification System for United States Citizens

Constitutional, Statutory, and Civil Liberties Petition for Public Use

To:

Bureau of Consular Affairs, United States Department of State (CA/PPT)

United States Department of State Office of Inspector General

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Office of the United States Representative and United States Senators (Constituent Services)

I. Statement of Purpose

This petition requests the creation of a secure, citizen accessible system allowing United States passport holders to verify whether their passport is valid for international travel prior to departure. No such system exists, despite passport validity being routinely checked by airlines, foreign governments, and international law enforcement systems. This omission creates foreseeable harm, violates procedural due process guarantees, and exposes citizens to undisclosed legal and financial risk.

II. Constitutional Claims

A. Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause

The Supreme Court has recognized international travel as a protected liberty interest. *Kent v. Dulles*, 357 U.S. 116, 125 to 127 (1958). While Congress and the Executive may regulate passports, deprivation of travel without notice or opportunity to remedy violates due process. *Aptheker v. Secretary of State*, 378 U.S. 500, 505 to 506 (1964). The current framework provides no notice mechanism prior to deprivation, rendering it constitutionally deficient.

B. Right to Travel and Freedom of Movement

Restrictions on international travel must be narrowly tailored and supported by procedural safeguards. *Haig v. Agee*, 453 U.S. 280, 306 (1981). Denying citizens the ability to verify passport validity while exposing that information to third parties fails this standard.

III. Statutory Authority and Administrative Obligations

Under 22 U.S.C. 2714a(f), the Secretary of State maintains authority over passport issuance and revocation. The Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 555(b), requires agencies to provide fair procedure when individual rights are affected. A lack of any pre travel verification mechanism conflicts with these obligations.

IV. Consumer Protection and Financial Harm

Citizens incur non refundable travel expenses in reliance on possession of a valid passport. The absence of disclosure or verification shifts all risk to the citizen while insulating agencies from accountability.

V. Proposed Remedy

Creation of a secure, identity verified portal allowing passport holders to receive a binary status response: Valid for international travel or Not valid contact the Department of State, without disclosure of sensitive law enforcement data.

VI. Request for Action

Petitioners request administrative implementation or legislative mandate establishing this system, written justification for the current absence of such a tool, and acknowledgment of the due process implications presently imposed on United States citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Concerned United States Citizens
For public dissemination and advocacy use