

**SEPTEMBER 11TH FAMILIES
FOR PEACEFUL TOMORROWS**

*Post Office Box 1818
Peter Stuyvesant Station
New York, New York 10009*

Governor Eliot Spitzer
The Executive Chamber State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

April 14, 2007

Governor Spitzer,

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows supports the human rights and dignity of all human beings. It was the stereotyping of our loved ones on September 11th that forever changed our lives. We want justice for the killing of our family members and toward that end, we are working to effectuate policies that address the root causes of terrorism and prevent terrorist activity.

Today, we are deeply troubled that 9/11 is again being used as a means to justify legislation which unfairly targets immigrants and jeopardizes the privacy of United States citizens. The Real ID Act includes provisions that were stricken from the final Conference Report of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, because they do not address the intelligence failures that led to 9/11. These controversial measures regarding asylum and drivers' licenses, equate immigrants with terrorists. They deny asylum to those faced with imprisonment, death and torture in their home lands. They deny drivers' licenses to hardworking, decent people who must drive to earn a living and will be forced to drive without a license or insurance to support their families. These measures will not make America safer, because 9/11 was largely a failure of intelligence, not immigration law. We further believe that this legislation will impede the security initiatives that would prevent terrorist attacks in the future and divert funds to invasive and ultimately useless programs.

It is our hope that America's principles and Constitutional protections will continue to apply to those who have come to our country fleeing persecution and torture; that we can come together with compassion for our fellow human beings, those less fortunate than ourselves, seeking a better life for their families and the privileges of citizenship we enjoy as an accident of birth. We urge you to take a stand against this law and help lead the nation in opposing it. New York must not be instrumental in implementing legislation that betrays all of our deepest values and convictions.

Sincerely,

Adele Welty
Mother of Firefighter Timothy Welty
FDNY, Squad 288
WTC, 9/11/01

For:
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
Membership list attached