

# FRONTLINE STATE LEGISLATIVE VOTES ON DRIVERS LICENSES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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## HARRY MITCHELL (AZ-05)

### Mitchell Opposed Measure to Ban Use of Matricular Consular

In 2006, Mitchell voted against a proposed ballot measure to ban the use of Matricular Consular cards.

Subject to voter approval, the proposal would prohibit law enforcement or other government agencies, commissions, boards or districts from accepting identification documents unless they are issued by a political subdivision, Indian tribe, a state or federal authority.

The Matricular Consular is an identification card issued by the Mexican Government through its Consular Offices. Every Mexican national, independent of his or her migratory status, has the right to be registered by the Mexican Consulate within the jurisdiction where he resides. Some Mexican nationals who are present in the U.S. utilize the Matricular Consular as a form of identification.

The measure passed 18-11. [SCR 1030, Third Reading, 3/6/06]

### Mitchell: Opposition to Matricular Consular “Crazy”

In 2003, Mitchell voiced his opposition to legislation that would bar cities from recognizing the Matricular Consular.

“I think it’s crazy,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell also pointed out that he’s pleased that the Tempe City Council has chosen to accept the IDs for city services.

“People have said over and over that it does not have anything to do with a person’s immigration status,” he said. “I think this is an anti-immigration thing.” [*Arizona Republic*, 3/10/03]

### Mitchell Voted Against Increasing Identification Requirements

In 2005, Mitchell voted against legislation that increased identification requirements.

The bill prohibited law enforcement or other government agencies, commissions, boards, or districts from accepting identification documents unless they are issued by a political subdivision, Indian tribe, a state or federal authority.

The bill was passed, but later vetoed. In her veto message, the Governor stated that the bill was poorly drafted, overly broad, and would lead to unintended consequences. The Governor expressed concern that no foreign government-issued documents, even passports, could be accepted or recognized by state and local government or law enforcement officials under this legislation. [SB 1511, 3/15/05, Third Reading]

### **Voted Against Increasing Identification Requirements in 2004**

In 2004, Mitchell voted against legislation to prohibit the Arizona Department of Transportation from accepting as primary identification for a new driver license a license issued in a state that did not require proof of legal residency to issue driver licenses.

The bill passed 16-14 and was signed into law. [SB 1232, 3/08/04, Third Reading]

### **GABRIELLE GIFFORDS (AZ-08)**

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### **CHRIS MURPHY (CT-05)**

#### **Murphy Voted Against Restricting Validity of Drivers Licenses to Certain Aliens**

In 2003, Murphy voted against an amendment that allowed the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to restrict validity of a driver's license or ID card to coincide with the period of a person's lawful presence in the United States, unless the person proved they had applied for a change or extension of their authorized presence.

The amendment passed 20-16. [SB 930, RC #391, Amendment B, 5/29/03]

#### **Opposed Requiring the DMV to Verify Social Security Numbers Before Issuing a Driver's License**

In 2004, Murphy voted against an amendment that required the Department of Motor Vehicles to check the social security number with the Social Security Administration for applicants' who use a social security card for identification prior to issuing a driver's license.

The amendment failed 15-21. [SB 124, RC #114, Amendment B, 4/14/04]