



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Administration**

SHELDON FISHER, COMMISSIONER

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April 11, 2017

Ms. Chrissy Nizer,  
Chair  
S2S Governance Committee  
c/o AAMVA  
4401 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Ms. Nizer,

As Commissioner of the Department of Administration, I oversee the State of Alaska's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Alaska's DMV is a member of the Governance Board overseeing the S2S Verification System. I am writing to you on behalf of Alaskans concerned about the use of their social security number in the S2S Verification.

As you know, the current S2S system requires the last five digits of an applicant's social security number be uploaded to the S2S pointer file. While we understand the goal of the pointer file is to accurately identify a requested record and avoid false identifications, we have heard from many Alaskans who are concerned about their social security number being included in the pointer file. Because the S2S uses five digits versus the standard four digits, many are concerned this allows for too-easy access to information if there ever was a security breach.

Until recently, all Alaskans, who received a social security number were given the same first three numbers—574. When we send in the last five numbers of a social security number, it makes it very easy to guess an Alaskan's entire social security number if there was a security breach.

We would like to pursue the option of limiting the pointer file to fewer than five digits of the social security number, as is more commonly required for verification purposes. Alaska's representative, Marla Thompson, will be at the next governance meeting on April 27 with a formal written request for this proposed change.

Thank you for your help with this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Sheldon Fisher  
Commissioner