

## **HSPD-12 Public Meeting Technology and Privacy**

**Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, Vice President and Director of the Technology  
and New Economy Project, Progressive Policy Institute**

We need to modernize the state driver's license system and the federal ID system.

Privacy issue – some of the issues raised on privacy are really red herrings designed to scare people; these issues are raised by people who are scared of technology. There may be a few legitimate issues:

- Privacy issues regarding federal employees already exist.
- How would employees be protected if smart cards are lost or stolen? A card with biometrics can't be used by someone else.
- Need for appeal is necessary if more stringent background checks are required to get ID and they can lose their job if they can't get card.
- Storage of birth certificate is irrelevant since they are already being stored by the state. Storage of private documents in and of itself is not a privacy issue.
- Cards would be issued to employees, not citizens, so the numbers are not a privacy issue.
- Mission creep is not a bad thing. Increasing functionality of the cards is good.

The chip for metro card can be included on the federal ID card. That means federal employee doesn't have to carry two cards. Smart cards should be designed for both federal and private use. In Europe, smart cards can be used to get out of a garage. You should be able to use smart cards to get into a hotel room. Other applications should be placed on federal ID cards.

- The Federal ID card is not a National ID card. We need mandatory state driver's license with biometrics and chips on them anyway.
- Contact vs contact-less cards is not really a privacy issue.
- We oppose putting fingerprint on card. This is over the line. It's much better to have a template rather than actual fingerprint.
- Unencrypted data on a contact-less card would be a mistake and raises significant privacy concerns.
- Tracking employees with new technology is not a legitimate concern. An employer has a right to know where employees are during work hours.

Please refer to “Technological Innovation Without Big Brother”, an article that shows that privacy issues are not a legitimate concern.