

GREEN LIGHT LAW

In response to New York State implementing the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act (Green Light Law), Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf announced New York residents will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew their enrollment in certain Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP) like Global Entry. The law prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from sharing information with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), preventing DHS from fully vetting New York residents.



MYTH: This is a political hit against New York. Fourteen other states have similar laws.

FACT: New York is the only state that restricts U.S. Customs and Border Protection access to their data across the board. This information is used not only for immigration purposes, but also for law enforcement purposes, customs purposes, and for trade and travel facilitation purposes. New York is the only state to take that drastic action, which is why DHS took the specific action it did.



MYTH: This is about New York giving illegal aliens drivers licenses.



FACT: The suspension of new enrollees in TTP has nothing to do with giving driver's licenses to illegal aliens. This is about the state cutting off information sharing with CBP and law enforcement not being able to do their job to properly vet individuals applying for the TTP.



MYTH: CBP can get the same data from other sources.



FACT: CBP has not lost all access to New York state criminal history repositories, but it has lost access to driver's license and vehicle registration data. Without access to the New York DMV data, CBP will be limited in its ability to see Driving while intoxicated charges or other convictions categorized as traffic-related offenses, including misdemeanors, which do not show in such criminal history repositories, but which may disqualify an individual from being eligible for TTP.