

SEARCH Resolution 02-35

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

January 2002

Biometrics, Criminal History Record Information, Homeland Security and Public Safety

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 there are many proposals for the implementation of screening systems and background checks to increase homeland security and public safety;

WHEREAS, many of these proposals would require the use of a biometric to validate the identity of individuals;

WHEREAS, many of these proposals would require a criminal history record check as a part of a background check to help determine eligibility for enrollment in screening programs, access to secure areas or resources or eligibility for sensitive employment or licenses; and

WHEREAS, many of these proposals call for a system in which individuals would become ineligible to participate in the system if, subsequent to their enrollment in this system, they had contact with the criminal justice system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics:

The Congress and the Executive Branch are urged, in their development of new programs to increase homeland security and public safety, that, if these programs include a biometric for identification purposes, this biometric be a fingerprint so as to create a forensics functionality and so as to interface with existing criminal justice automated fingerprint identification systems containing digitized fingerprint information relating to millions of individuals;

That, where feasible and where state resources permit, enrollment in any screening system require a state initiated, fingerprint-supported criminal history record check;

That, if a screening system is developed, the system interface with criminal justice in order to support post-enrollment reporting of participants' contact with the criminal justice system;

That the Congress and the Executive Branch are urged to provide sustained financial assistance to the states to supplement current funding for criminal history and justice integration to assist the states in upgrading, staffing and supporting their technologies and systems to enhance their ability to capture and process fingerprint-based criminal history background checks and to interface with relevant FBI systems;

(More)

[SEARCH Resolution 02-35, Continued](#)

That the Congress and the Executive Branch are urged to assist in the appropriate acquisition and support of "live scan" units to assist in the online, digitized capture of fingerprints and the processing of fingerprint-based background checks; and

That, in providing federal financial assistance for biometric initiatives and upgrades, the Congress and the Executive Branch provide sustained funding for staffing, maintenance and other ongoing support so as to assure the effective and permanent deployment and use of biometric technologies."