WASHINGTON, D.C. -- This week, the Federal Government announced more flexibility for Americans seeking a passport. Effective immediately through September 30, 2007, those flying to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda who have applied for a passport and have not received a passport can now use their government issued identification and Department of State official proof of application for a passport.

Americans seeking to travel outside the country are advised to apply for a passport over three months before their scheduled departure. Travelers that have not received their passport within two weeks of travel should call the National Passport Information Center at 877-487-2778. If the Center is unable to assist, travelers should call Congressman McCarthy's Bakersfield Office at (661) 327-3611.

"My office is here to help," said Congressman McCarthy. "If you live in California's 22nd District and have not received your passport within two weeks of departure, please contact my Bakersfield office so we can advocate on your behalf to help you get your passport on time."

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