



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
355 NORTH 300 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103
(801) 521-9862 PHONE • (801) 532-2850 FAX
ACLU@ACLUUTAH.ORG • WWW.ACLUUTAH.ORG

September 6, 2005

Representative Rob Bishop
U. S. House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bishop,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah's 2,400 members, I am writing to urge you to support the Senate version of the USA PATRIOT Act reauthorization bill, S. 1389, and to reject the House version. Although the ACLU cannot endorse either the House or Senate version of the legislation, the Senate bill is significantly better than the current law and much better than the seriously flawed House legislation.

Most sections of the PATRIOT Act are not objectionable from a civil liberties perspective. However, some of the provisions went too far, too fast. The reauthorization process is an opportunity to correct sections that provide inadequate or no checks on law enforcement authority to gain access to personal records.

The bipartisan Senate bill includes important steps toward reform, particularly with regard to Section 215, the controversial provision regarding records in the hands of third parties. S. 1389 provides safeguards to Americans' library and bookstore records by requiring an explicit showing of facts, more meaningful judicial review, and a greater linkage to a specific individual before allowing the federal government to use a court order to acquire personal records.

Also, in the Senate version, Section 213 would be changed to allow a shorter delay on notification when the government searches a home secretly. As the Justice Department has acknowledged, these warrants are used primarily in criminal cases, not terrorism cases. We should not be using the PATRIOT Act to subvert protections for American citizens against unreasonable search and seizure.

We understand that currently in the House, there are letters circulating urging the joint conference committee to support the Senate reforms as it works to reconcile the two versions of the PATRIOT Act reauthorization bill. We ask you to sign on to such a letter to offer your visible support of the Senate reforms, which provide the necessary tools for the Justice Department and the FBI, yet still allow for the protection and preservation of American's civil liberties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dani Eyer
Executive Director