



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Support for USA Freedom Act Amendments

An Open Letter to the United States Senate:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) is the largest nonpartisan, nonprofit law enforcement association representing over 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from the 65 federal agencies.

We strongly urge that you retain critical law enforcement tools and authorities that we use every day in our fight against terrorism and complex criminal enterprises. We request that you support to retain: 1) roving wiretaps, 2) “lone wolf” provisions and 3) financial data tracking that is tied to terrorism, granted under a FISA court order.

In addition, we request that you support the following amendments regarding the USA Freedom Act:

SUPPORT Amendment #1449: Substitute Amendment

Substitute Amendment #1449 is a reasonable compromise on data retention requirements not otherwise addressed in the Freedom Act, offering operational effectiveness while appropriately addressing privacy concerns regarding the retention of call data records.

SUPPORT Amendment #1450

Amendment #1450 simply extends the transition time from 6 to 12 months. Six months not enough time to ensure technical and legal processes remain intact and functional.

SUPPORT Amendment #1451

Amendment #1451 improves the privacy of amicus participants by eliminating the panel-of-experts and an instead allowing the courts to decide when an amicus is proper. The U.S. Courts have expressed concern that the panel of experts, an unusual legal entity, could impair the courts’ ability to protect civil liberties.

FLEOA members are the core users of the authorities granted under the former USA Patriot Act that must be retained in the USA Freedom Act. Since 9/11/01, those authorities have been successfully and lawfully used to thwart terrorists, capture criminals and keep Americans safe. FLEOA implores you to enact the new USA Freedom Act with the amendments and authorities as stated above so that terrorists and criminals cannot take advantage of this gap in lawful authorities to create another incident.

Sincerely,

Steve Lenkart

Steve Lenkart
FLEOA Executive Director