

## **Letter urging Members of Congress to vote against the Conference Report on the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005**

November 18, 2005

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing to urge you to vote against adoption of the Conference Report on H.R. 3199, the Patriot Act reauthorization bill. The bill fails to correct the flaws in the Patriot Act that threaten the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans.

The bill's changes to section 215 of the Patriot Act – the so-called library provision – provide no meaningful new protection. The government retains the power to engage in essentially unlimited fishing expeditions for records of innocent persons. The bill also does nothing to restrain the government's massive use of national security letters. In fact, the changes on national security letters affirmatively harm civil liberties by imposing unconstitutional criminal penalties for disclosure of receipt of a national security letter.

We agree with Senators Craig, Durbin, Feingold, Murkowski, Salazar and Sununu – three Republicans and three Democrats – that the Patriot Act reauthorization bill should embody the Senate's approach in requiring a connection between the records sought and a foreign terrorist or spy. Anything less unacceptably compromises the liberties and privacy of the American people.

American Booksellers Association  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Conservative Union  
American Library Association  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Association of American Physician and Surgeons  
Association of American Publishers  
Association of Research Libraries  
Bill of Rights Defense Campaign  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Democracy and Technology  
Center for National Security Studies  
Consumer Action  
Doctors for Disaster Preparedness  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
The Federation of American Scientists  
First Amendment Foundation  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Gun Owners of America  
Human Rights Watch  
Liberty Coalition

The Multiracial Activist  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Association of Muslim Lawyers  
National Committee Against Repressive Legislation  
National Lawyer's Guild--National Office  
OMB Watch  
People For the American Way  
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse  
Privacy Times  
The Rutherford Institute  
Square One Media Network

Fairfax County Privacy Council