

and I know that the President and many here are considering reforms which I may support—but we also must permit robust use of our Federal courts. I think it's disingenuous to claim that after 300 people have been sent to jail for long sentences, we can't safely try terrorists in U.S. courts under Federal law. I agree with Secretary of Defense Gates and Attorney General Holder that such an amendment would make us less safe by removing a critical tool from the Nation's arsenal, and that's the use of our Federal justice system.

In conclusion, we must live our values. When we fail to do that, we offer a huge recruiting tool to those who would attack us. If we live our values by carefully amending expiring PATRIOT Act provisions, by standing up a privacy and civil liberties board and by saying that Federal Courts can try many of those we apprehend for terrorism-related crimes, we have the best chance of winning in this era of terror.

Madam Speaker, I take a backseat to no one in the effort to defeat the terror threat against us. I take the threat very seriously. I read proposed legislation carefully. Today, we could have, as Mr. NADLER suggested, passed a short-term extension and then had a robust public debate about amendments to expiring PATRIOT Act provisions. This is a missed opportunity and I oppose the extension.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I am prepared to close. I will reserve my time.

Mr. CONYERS. How many minutes remain?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CONYERS. I reserve my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, extending the expiring provisions of the PATRIOT Act will give our law enforcement officials and intelligence agents the authority they need to meet terrorists' threats. It is unfortunate, though, that some reject a long-term reauthorization. Refusing to reauthorize our national security laws for the long term signals weakness to our enemies. It says we are not serious about protecting American lives.

Repeated extensions of this law create uncertainty for intelligence officials and increase the danger that intelligence is missed and threats unidentified. The PATRIOT Act is not broken. And if it isn't broken, we shouldn't try to fix it.

Congress has already undertaken a sweeping review of the PATRIOT Act following extensive hearings in the Judiciary Committee. We approved a reauthorization in 2006 that made permanent all but three provisions and enhanced important civil liberty protections. The Obama administration, a bipartisan Senate, and House Republicans all support a long-term reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.

Mr. Speaker, while I support this bill, our national interests would have been

better served if we had considered a long-term extension. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation even though a long-term piece of legislation would have been a much-improved situation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of our time to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, DENNIS KUCINICH.

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank Mr. CONYERS.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 3961, legislation to extend the expired provisions of the PATRIOT Act. The three provisions being extended today include the "roving wiretaps," which allow the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to issue secret orders to wiretap any target without having to specify the target or the device. This extension also includes the "lone wolf" surveillance provision, which allows intelligence agencies to conduct investigations of non-U.S. individuals not connected to a foreign power or terrorist group, a provision that the administration has never had to use. Finally, this legislation would extend section 215 powers of the PATRIOT Act, which allows the government to order any entity to turn over "any tangible things" as long as it specifies its for "an authorized investigation." Section 215 orders constitute a serious violation of Fourth and First Amendment rights by allowing the government to demand access to records often associated with the exercise of First Amendment rights, such as library records.

Through years of documentation evidencing abuse of these provisions during the Bush administration, the Department of Justice has failed to hold Bush administration officials accountable for illegal domestic spying by barring any lawsuits to be brought against those officials. Months into this administration, The New York Times reported that the National Security Agency had "intercepted private e-mail messages and phone calls of Americans in recent months on a scale that went beyond the broad legal limits" and that the practice was "significant and systematic."

Passage of this legislation continues to make Congress complicit in the violations of constitutional rights.

A letter written by the American Bar Association in 2005 to Congress expressed grave concern over "inadequate congressional oversight of government investigations undertaken pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act" . . . "to assure that such investigations do not violate the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments."

As Members of Congress swore to protect the rights and civil liberties afforded to us by the Constitution, we have a responsibility to exercise our oversight powers fully, and significantly reform the PATRIOT Act, ensuring that the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans are fully protected. More than 8 years after the passage of the PATRIOT Act, we failed to

do so. As National Journal correspondent Shane Harris recently put it, we've witnessed the rise of an "American Surveillance State." We've come to love our fears more than we love our freedoms.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in 2001, I voted against the USA PATRIOT Act because it granted law enforcement powers too broad, too removed from oversight, and at the expense of Americans' civil rights. I am disappointed that H.R. 3961 simply extends three of these provisions without any additional protections or oversight.

This is a missed opportunity to rebalance the need to pursue violent extremists with the need to respect our own citizens. Continuing to allow the government to obtain "any tangible thing" relevant to a terrorism investigation, including library records, is a disturbingly low bar. We can do better.

Committees in the House and Senate have offered drafts to improve the PATRIOT Act, and I strongly suggest that we move forward immediately to amend this law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1109, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION ACT OF 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4691) to provide a temporary extension of certain programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4691

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Temporary Extension Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking "February 28, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "April 5, 2010";

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking "FEBRUARY 28, 2010" and inserting "APRIL 5, 2010"; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking "July 31, 2010" and inserting "September 4, 2010".

(2) Section 2002(e) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families