

served as Chairman—the Reynolds Scholarship Committee, the First-Year Seminar Committee, Divinity School Accreditation Committee and Dean of the College Search Committee.

Mr. Speaker, like many young men and women who attended Wake Forest, I am honored and proud to say I studied under Professor James Powell.

H.R. 2408, THE USA FREEDOM ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2048, the USA Freedom Act. This bill makes important improvements to the PATRIOT Act, including to Section 2154, which is the underpinning of the National Security Agency's (NSA) nationwide bulk collection program.

Yet a ruling last week by the Second Circuit found that the bulk collection of phone records under this section violated the law. The right to privacy is a fundamental American value. And it is clear that the practice of unconstitutional bulk data collection endangers that right. Last week's court decision underscores this—and makes clear that more robust surveillance reforms are needed. While the USA Freedom Act is a good step forward, it does not go far enough. And I recognize the hard work of my good friend and colleague, Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, JR., on this important bill. More than thirteen years after the passage of the PATRIOT Act, Congress must do more to balance our national security with the protection of our civil liberties.

The USA Freedom Act should include more robust protections to prevent the surveillance of individuals with no nexus to terrorism or any specific investigation. This would ensure adequate protections against indiscriminate surveillance from the government and ensure that Section 215 cannot be used to collect Americans' records unrelated to any specific investigation. We should also be working for more robust minimization procedures to ensure that information collected under Section 215 is not stored in databases for years. This type of provision was included in a previous version of this bill and must be restored. We should also work to limit additional authorities outside of Section 215 that have been used to collect Americans' records in bulk. We know that the government has used other authorities—such as administrative subpoena laws—to collect Americans' records in bulk. And finally, H.R. 2048 should be amended to ensure that the government does not use authorities under Section 702 as a backdoor to conduct surveillance on Americans. Section 702 allows the government to intercept contents of Americans' electronic communications with individuals abroad—and stores them in a database—without a warrant. Reforms to Section 702 should be included in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for working in bipartisan manner on this bill. Yet I believe that additional reforms were needed to adequately protect Americans' fundamental right to privacy. More than 13 years after the PATRIOT Act was first passed into law, it is time for Congress to let Section 215 expire

and work toward serious and meaningful surveillance reform.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2015, my flight was delayed and I was unable to vote on H.R. 91.

If present, I would have vote "yea" on H.R. 91.

H.R. 36

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 36. This bill would ban abortions after 20 weeks without an adequate exception to protect a woman's health—a violation of *Roe v. Wade*—and would impose unreasonable burdens on rape and incest survivors. The legislation is the latest attack by House Republicans on women's health, and what's even more insulting is that they brought it to the floor during Women's Health Week.

H.R. 36 would deny a woman the right to an abortion even if she is experiencing serious medical complications from pregnancy, or her physician is unable to diagnose her fetus with severe and lethal anomalies until after 20 weeks. These anomalies frequently lead to fetal death before or shortly after birth. Moreover, by imposing criminal penalties on physicians who provide abortion care, the bill would eventually lead to the deterioration of the critical patient-doctor relationship.

As you know, Republicans pulled an earlier version of this after a clash in their caucus over the exception for adult rape survivors which would require women to report the crime to law enforcement before they could get an abortion. That language has been modified to require rape survivors to seek and provide documentation of medical treatment or counseling 48 hours prior to an abortion. The bill also includes unfair reporting and documentation requirements for minors who have survived rape and incest. Without a doubt these barriers are deliberately designed to restrict a women's right to choose.

I'm pleased to see a range of organizations voice strong opposition to this bill including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, NARAL Pro-Choice American, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, National Organization for Women, National Women's Law Center, National Council of Jewish Women, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for women's health and oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteers of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and to thank them for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit that provides services to help older adults continue living independently, and it offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

Every year, approximately 200 volunteers support older residents who want to age in place in their homes and stay engaged in social activities. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

Last year was a particularly successful year for SCOV. In 2014, drivers provided over 1100 round-trip rides for medical reasons and other errands. Volunteers made regular contact with individuals who may have limited interaction and may feel isolated in their homes. "Handy Helpers" made minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable. The Health Team provided individual health counseling, referral to community resources, and blood pressure readings. Volunteers also run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support groups. All told, SCOV served more than 3000 individuals in 2014. For these accomplishments, SCOV was recognized as 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Caregiving Program by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for its work to enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL WAYNE A. WRIGHT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Brigadier General Wayne A. Wright for his 34 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.