

Mahoney Protects Americans' Security and Privacy

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Congressman Supports House Amendment to FISA

(March 14, 2008)

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"The President and the Senate have a bill that fully addresses their technical concerns. The bill also addresses the issue of 'retroactive immunity' for telecommunications companies by ensuring that they will have their day in court by having their case heard in secret by a special court," said Mahoney. Protecting America and Americans constitutional liberties is tough to do and I am proud that this bill gets the job done."

In contrast to the Senate's bill, the House's legislation:

Balances effective counterterrorism tools and protection of American liberties by:

- Requiring that the Administration seek approval for broad authorizations from the FISA court before commencing surveillance, except in the case of an emergency when immediate action is needed;
- Prohibiting reverse targeting, and
- Establishing flexible procedures for overseas targeting by protecting U.S. persons abroad but not requiring individual warrants for overseas terrorists.

Preserves the Rule of Law in Pending and Future Lawsuits by:

- Rejecting retroactive immunity for participation in the President's warrantless wiretapping program, and
- Providing protections against lawsuits for companies that complied with the President's request for information after 9-11. If these companies acted under valid authorizations from the Attorney General, then they cannot be sued under the law.

For additional information, please check the Majority Leader's FISA website:
http://www.majorityleader.gov/members/fisa_cfm.cfm

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