

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNITING AND STRENGTHENING
AMERICA BY FULFILLING
RIGHTS AND ENSURING EFFEC-
TIVE DISCIPLINE OVER MONI-
TORING ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have always been a staunch defender of privacy and civil liberties. I voted against the Patriot Act and its extension in 2008 and 2011 because I feared it gave the federal government too much unchecked power over the rights of law abiding citizens and lacked effective oversight tools for Congress. Clearly I was proven right. Thankfully, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that the NSA's program to collect telephone records in bulk under Section 215 of the Patriot Act is illegal. This was a big win for privacy and civil liberties advocates, but it is not the end of the fight. Given this decision, it is clear that Congress must do more to rein in unconstitutional intrusion into our personal lives. Unfortunately, today's bill fell short of those reforms.

H.R. 2048 is an improvement from the weakened bill that passed the House last year. However, it falls short of shutting the door on unrestrained government surveillance. The bill does nothing to address "backdoor" searches of U.S. citizens under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. This statute is possibly of more concern than the telephone records collected under Section 215. While Section 702 expressly prohibits the government from intentionally targeting the communications of U.S. persons, the NSA has applied an incredibly loose interpretation of this statute and used it to justify collecting not only communications records of U.S. citizens, but also the contents of communications, including email, social media messages, or web browsing history.

While this bill attempts to address bulk data collection under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, the NSA has an unscrupulous tendency to find loopholes in statute and twist the intent of Congress to fulfill their own wishes. I fear that given our past experience, this bill will undermine the Second Circuit's decision and create new legal loopholes for the NSA and law enforcement agencies to collect even more data on millions of Americans.

It is possible to gain information on potential terrorist threats while still protecting the privacy and freedom of American citizens, complying with the Constitution, and preserving adequate congressional and judicial oversight. The original version of the USA Freedom Act, introduced in 2013, balanced these priorities. The bill we considered today did not. I urge the Senate to make the needed reforms to this bill so that it bolsters the Second Circuit's decision and accomplishes the goal of once and for all ending mass government surveillance of law-abiding Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted against this re-vamped version of H.R. 36, the "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act." This act is both dangerous and unconstitutional and violates the rights of women to an abortion. By allowing this act to become law, we are limiting the reproductive rights for all women in this nation.

H.R. 36 is blatantly unconstitutional, as it bans abortions after the twenty week mark. This bill is in clear violation of more than 40 years of Supreme Court precedent that protect women's access to abortion prior to viability—that is prior to twenty-four NOT twenty weeks.

This bill provides fake fixes that make it worse than the first version of this bill. This bill requires sexual assault victims seeking abortion services after twenty weeks to provide written proof that they obtained counseling or medical treatment for their sexual assault. This bill also requires a minor, who is an incest victim and who seeks abortion services after twenty weeks, to provide written proof that the crime was reported to law enforcement or a government agency.

Forcing sexual assault victims and minor incest victims to report their rape is bad enough, but this bill gets even more dangerous because it requires doctors who provide abortion services after twenty weeks to publicly disclose, to the government, the location of where care was provided. In light of Americans' easy access to guns and explosive materials, this provision would endanger many lives. This is a nightmare waiting to happen—a nightmare that I refuse to take part in supporting.

We cannot allow a woman's right to choose to be infringed upon by a minority of people in this nation. We cannot let them bully the rest of the country into accepting their worldview. I stand with women, which is why I opposed H.R. 36.

WATER SAFETY AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the month of May is Water Safety Awareness Month. Swimming and other water recreational activities are very popular among Americans of all ages. As the warm summer months approach, we should work to ensure the public is educated on the most up-to-date water safety practices so that these activities remain a safe way to exercise and enjoy recreation.

A local chapter of the Independent Pool and Spa Service Association is hosting a safe

swimming event in San Antonio, Texas, on May 16, 2015. This event will serve to educate 4th grade students at Baskin Elementary School on the importance of water safety and to teach them safe swimming practices. I want to recognize their efforts and encourage all Texans to learn about and follow proper water safety measures.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CENTRAL
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
FOR ITS 50TH YEAR OF HELPING
COMBAT POVERTY IN PENNSYL-
VANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) on the occasion of their 50th year of service to communities in Franklin and Adams counties in Pennsylvania.

Community Action Agencies, which were created to carry out the Community Action Program that was established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, have been important assets in helping reduce the effects of poverty felt around the United States. First called the Adams County Community Action Agency, SCCAP has played a critical role in bringing these support services to the underserved community members of Franklin and Adams counties.

From its beginnings as an organization run out of a two-room office, the hard-working SCCAP staff and volunteers have earned federal grant funding and organized the communities they serve to enable them to better support those in need. Later expanded to provide services to Franklin County residents, SCCAP has undergone an impressive transformation as it has continued to aid countless handicapped and underprivileged citizens in its 50 years. Despite challenges and its many changes, one thing has always stayed the same: SCCAP has been committed to helping families and underserved individuals move out of poverty since its creation.

I am privileged to not only congratulate the South Central Community Action Program, an organization that serves more than 11,000 families in Franklin County, on its 50th anniversary, but also thank the tireless SCCAP staff and volunteers for their selfless and unrelenting commitment to making the communities in their region a better place.

EMS WEEK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to

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