

The Patriot Act is a wide-ranging statute designed, as its stated purpose, to "unite and strengthen America by providing appropriate tools required to intercept and obstruct terrorism." These tools include increased authority to intercept telephone and electronic communications, to conduct surveillance of private citizens, to seize electronic and voice mail messages, to execute and delay notice of the execution of warrants, and to access the business and private records of American citizens and others living in our country. It includes some provisions that most people would not question such as making wiretapping court orders apply to all of a suspect's phone lines.

The Patriot Act also expands the authority of U.S. government intelligence agencies to invoke the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which was originally enacted to track and capture international spies as distinct from domestic citizens and residents. It is worth noting that FISA surveillance requests in 2002 outnumbered all of those under domestic law for the first time since FISA was enacted.

Although the recognition of terrorist cells (like the hijackers) within our country led Americans to demand stronger action to identify and bring to justice those responsible for the terrorist attacks on our country on September 11th and to prevent any other such tragedy, the balance between liberty and security is notoriously difficult to strike. I voted in favor of the Patriot Act recognizing that, in that period of national anxiety, we would probably get the balance wrong and so I insisted that it incorporate sunset provisions for its most onerous provisions. Accordingly, some of this law's most troubling provisions granting increased police powers to our Federal government will expire at the end of 2005.

Now, nearly 22 months after the September 11th attacks, we should question whether we are more united and strengthened as a Nation in fact? The answer is yes in some ways, but probably not by operation of the Patriot Act. Although 1,200 men were immediately detained following the September 11th attacks on America and more subsequently, only one suspect—Zacarias Moussaoui—is actually being tried for his alleged involvement in those terrorist attacks.

At the same time, substantial numbers of suspects are being held in detention without counsel, without charges having been filed and without trials taking place. Moreover, countless numbers of citizens and legal residents have had assets seized and business transactions interrupted and have suffered many other disruptions in their personal and professional lives. These actions have caused much more widespread public unease and dissension than any feelings of national unity or strength that might result should a suspect actually be tried, convicted and brought to justice through operation of the Patriot Act.

In fact, soon after the initial round-up of detainees, the principal focus of the Bush Administration and many resources were diverted away from using the Patriot Act to find and rout al-Qaeda terrorism cells operating in the United States and around the world to waging and winning the war to topple Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. This was done even though U.S. intelligence agencies and the Bush White House could not demonstrate any clear and convincing connection between the Iraqi regime and Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda or the events of September 11th or other ter-

rorist connections to the U.S. that prompted the passage of the Patriot Act in the first place.

So what has the Patriot Act accomplished in terms of increasing the unity and strength of our Nation? 112 cities, counties, and towns across the country have passed resolutions urging federal authorities to show great respect for the rights of our citizens, when carrying out activities designed to fight terrorism and improve homeland security. Just last week, Alaska became the second state after Hawaii to approve a resolution in opposition to key elements of the Patriot Act. The Alaska State legislature is firmly controlled by Republicans, nevertheless they overwhelmingly supported a resolution that "implores the United States Congress to correct provisions in the USA Patriot Act and other measures that infringe on civil liberties, and opposes any pending and future Federal legislation to the extent that it infringes on Americans' civil rights and liberties." In the words of one Alaskan state legislator: "Guys are dying on the battlefield to protect our freedoms. It is up to us to protect those freedoms here at home."

It is altogether fitting that you are gathered in the Princeton Public Library for this forum. I highly commend the sponsors and organizers of this two-part forum. Many organizations and individuals are expressing opposition to the provisions of the Patriot Act that prohibit library personnel from informing patrons if Federal agents have obtained records about their reading habits. In Washington, I was early co-sponsor of legislation sponsored by U.S. Congressman Bernie Sanders to exempt libraries and booksellers from orders requiring that they produce this sort of information about their patrons.

In a similar spirit, more Americans from all walks of life are joining with Muslim Americans and people of Middle Eastern descent to protest nationality-based registrations by the Immigration and Naturalization Bureau, which U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft began ordering last November for all men over 16 years of age in America from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Liberia, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Congressman JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Republican Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has called for extensive hearings into the uses and implementation of the Patriot Act, expressing serious concerns. I support him in that, although the Bush Administration appears to be stonewalling. I have also personally asked FBI Director Robert Mueller for his account of the need, usefulness, and future justification of the Patriot Act.

But it is having another effect unintended by the strongest supporters of the Patriot Act and who want to see it extended and expanded. It is reminding more Americans daily of the importance of our precious civil liberties and how much more strongly they must be preserved and protected in times of war.

I voted in favor of the Patriot Act with great reservation at the outset, and my reservations have only increased over time. Seeing little evidence that it has increased our security, I expect to oppose any effort to extend those provisions of the current Patriot Act that will expire next year and I will most certainly oppose any effort to strengthen and extend the reach of the Patriot Act with new provisions

that facilitate incursions into and violations of the fundamental civil and constitutional rights of our citizens and other legal residents in America, including proposals to revoke citizenship of people who are thought to give material aid to terrorists. The police and prosecution powers of the government are important and necessary to preserving life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but they are also the most fearsome powers of government.

LEADERS OF TAIWAN'S LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BRIEF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN CAPITOL

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today Members were honored to be joined by a bipartisan delegation of colleagues from the legislative branch of Taiwan, one of the world's most vibrant democracies. In an event hosted by the Congressional Taiwan Caucus here in the Capitol, President Wang and leaders from the Defense and Foreign Affairs committees of the Legislative Yuan briefed Members on important security, economic and health issues of mutual concern. I greatly welcome such direct exchanges and look forward to more such opportunities in the future.

I commend to my colleagues' attention the impressively candid observations of the leadership of Taiwan's delegation:

PREPARED REMARKS, HONORABLE WANG JIN-PYNG, PRESIDENT LEGISLATIVE YUAN

Members of the Congressional Leadership, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Taiwan Caucus of the United States Congress, it is a distinct privilege and honor to be here in this cradle of democracy with you today.

On behalf of the members of my traveling party of fellow Parliamentarians from your brother democracy in Taipei, permit me to thank you for your time, your interest, and your enduring friendship.

This building, targeted by terrorists, is revered by all citizens of Taiwan. It stands as a beacon for our national cause, for those who believe in the right of all people on this planet to choose their own form of government.

On behalf of the freely elected President of Taiwan, I bring you greetings.

President Chen Shui Bian has asked me to express to you his personal appreciation for the strong support shown by this Caucus—by this entire Congress—for building a strong Taiwan. He particularly asked me to thank you for supporting our efforts to maintain a robust defense. By approving sales of appropriate arms to Taiwan, you aid our ability to deter attack and to provide security for peoples throughout our region. By increasing confidence in our self-defense capabilities, you have helped provide stability in Asia.

Taiwan is moving forward deliberately to secure the resources for our prudent defense procurement program. We deeply appreciate your continued support and that of the Bush Administration.

As President of the Legislative Yuan, the 'congress' in Taiwan, I am honored to represent some twenty three million citizens. On their behalf, I thank you for the support of this Congress—support that has time and again proven essential if we are to continue to live in an open, free and democratic society. Please continue this support—which has brought political liberty, economic freedom

and a vigorous (I can assure you!), a vigorous and energetic free press for Taiwan!

In our Legislative Yuan we have four major parties and one independent group. You will be 'shocked' to know we sometimes quarrel, we shout, we argue, we debate into the night. But on matters concerning the mutual interests of the free people of Taiwan and the United States, we—like you—stand firmly united.

I pledge that we will continue to do all in our power to strengthen US-Taiwan ties and to advance mutual economic, diplomatic and security interests.

On two issues in particular I want to ask your help. Both concern our cousins across the Taiwan Strait, the People's Republic of China.

The people of Taiwan earnestly hope for a dialogue with the authorities in Beijing. We want to discuss matters of health. We want to discuss trade, security, transportation, improving people-to-people exchanges.

We have many issues of common interest to explore with the PRC. There is much we can learn from each other. There is much we can accomplish together. The peoples of the entire region desire peace and security, but there must be a mutual willingness for dialogue. So we ask our friends in the United States to use your important relationship with the authorities in Beijing. Encourage them to engage us in a dialogue unburdened by preconditions. It can only advance the interests of all concerned.

The second issue where we ask your help is in the area of health and Taiwan's international human rights.

Taiwan has weathered a terrible scourge in recent months as SARS swept the region. Lives have been lost. Livelihoods have been threatened. Commerce has been disrupted. People throughout the world have suffered from the PRC's cover-up of the SARS epidemic. At the same time the leaders in Beijing prevented Taiwan from receiving support from WHO, and other countries, by insisting that all assistance had to be approved and channeled through the PRC. Although the PRC could not handle its own problems with SARS it had the audacity to claim it was helping Taiwan, which did not receive anything.

Throughout this time, Taiwan has been seeking to participate in the programs of the World Health Organization. Not as a member state—we recognize that nomenclature would offend some in Beijing—but simply as an observer. Yet the stubborn rejection of our effort by the PRC—their international arm-twisting, bullying and threatening trade partners—has been shameful, a clear violation of Taiwan's international human rights. It is a crystal clear example for all to see of how a dictatorship places power politics above the interests of people—people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait who have suffered. Advice and support from the WHO did not arrive in time because of the PRC's interference. Health should not be a political issue used for gain and punishment. It is a life and death people issue and those who are chosen to govern must look to the people's interests first.

The fact is the SARS crisis will pass. But other health and economic challenges of an interdependent world will surely confront us. Taiwan can make its own contributions to the world's fight against disease, but it cannot be treated as a pariah. The time for the people of Taiwan to secure the benefits of international organizations, especially one as important as the WHO, has surely come. Taiwan's international human rights demand that its people should not be prevented from participating in international organizations and programs that will further their health and welfare and that of the world at large.

Under the landmark Taiwan Relations Act, the U.S. has pledged to work to benefit the welfare and human rights of the free people of Taiwan. I call upon you and your colleagues to hold hearings—consistent with this legislative requirement—on how the U.S. can advance Taiwan's health, human rights and security by pressing for Taiwan's inclusion in appropriate international organizations. We hope the American belief in fair play will encourage you to reach out to other friends and allies and urge their support for Taiwan's place in the community of international organizations.

Dear Friends, let me close with a personal note.

I have been honored by my colleagues and placed in a position of leadership in our national legislature. I have been honored by my president and asked to convey a message to our most important allies. Today, I have even been honored to work in that arsenal of democracy where the fighting forces of freedom are captained, the Pentagon.

But it is a signal honor of my career to be with you here today in the United States Capitol, truly the people's house, where the beacon of liberty shines forth for all around the globe to see.

Thank you so very much. May God bless you, and God bless the American people.

COMMENDING MRS. DEPOALA'S
FIFTH GRADE CLASS ON THE
CREATION OF THEIR PEACE
QUILT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the children of Mrs. Sally DePoala's Fifth Grade class at Cahill Elementary School in Saugerties, New York for their contribution to the national dialogue in support of peace and hope. Last Friday I had the good fortune to spend some time with these young people and receive from them a Peace Quilt that they had spent a good part of the year creating. After reading an African folk tale earlier in the year, the students were inspired to create an artistic quilt that expressed their deeply held commitment to peace here in the United States of America and throughout the world. All of the students in the class contributed to the beautiful quilt and asked to present it to me so I may assist them in eventually having it displayed at a memorial for the World Trade Center in New York City.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have had a profound effect on the Nation and the world. Together, we have sought out ways to deal with the fear, anger and grief that struck us all on that fateful day. Indeed, we as a nation have come together to find strength in the masses and to recommit ourselves to our families, our communities and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that the fifth grade students in Mrs. DePoala's class at Cahill Elementary decided to express themselves in this very thoughtful and traditional way. In a simple way, they have profoundly communicated the dream of our future generations to embrace peace and hope and to seek out strength from within our communities. I'm grateful to have been chosen as the messenger of the spirit of these young people and

I will enthusiastically seek to have their wonderful Peace Quilt displayed prominently at the site where the world will remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. In the meantime, I will proudly display this quilt in my Kingston district office so that our local community can appreciate this profound statement by our future generation.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRITTANY ATKINS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brittany Amber Atkins of Smyrna, Tennessee, for being chosen as the National Exchange Club Youth of the Year.

Brittany recently graduated from Battle Ground Academy with a 4.1 GPA. Her list of accomplishments while in high school are long. Among the honors and awards Brittany has received are Tennessee District Youth of the Year for the National Exchange Club, Brentwood Exchange Club Youth of the Year, Helen and Ralph Brown School Spirit Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Music Medal, Drama Medal and Harvard Book Award.

Brittany was also involved in a host of extracurricular activities, including Student Council, Leadership Council, Speech and Debate, plays, choirs, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Spanish Club, Key Club and Dance Team.

While her awards and extracurricular activities contributed to Brittany becoming the National Exchange Club Youth of the Year, I found her essay, "America's Young Patriots: Believing and Achieving for a Better America," to be most impressive. She writes, "America's future rests in the hearts, dreams, and preparations of these young patriots—no matter race, religion, place of residence, or economic status. It is through the beliefs and achievements of today's youth that America will thrive in the future." Brittany believes patriotism is found within the unlimited opportunities for one's education, profession and service to his or her community.

Brittany concludes her essay by pledging to "concentrate on service before reward, to introduce problems with solutions, and when encountering conflict, to interject love and humor." I commend Brittany for her many accomplishments and awards, and wish her the best of luck in future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JOE GUNN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after 14 years as president of the Texas AFL-CIO, Joe Gunn has announced that he will retire. I rise today to congratulate Joe and to wish him well in his retirement.

Joe Gunn has actively served the workers of the State of Texas for many years.