

sniper rifles, would have gone a long way towards achieving the goal of securing our nation against the threat of terrorism.

I believe that successfully addressing our national security needs while protecting our basic freedoms and civil liberties requires continual Congressional oversight, and I will continue to work to assert the role of this body in carrying out this grave responsibility. I will also continue to fight for increased funding for state and local law enforcement, as well as for increased security measures to protect our nation's public transportation and critical infrastructure systems. I would like to have an opportunity to vote for a reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act that more perfectly strikes a balance between civil liberties and national security, and am hopeful that the Senate will address the aforementioned issues of concern. It is my understanding that the corresponding bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee today would incorporate greater checks on several of these controversial powers, and I remain open to reevaluating my vote should a bill incorporating such modifications come before the House of Representatives in the near future. The bill in front of us today, however, does not adequately reform parts of this law which I believe violate important civil liberties. Likewise, it fails to provide for continued congressional oversight of many questionable provisions. I cannot vote for this measure, as it fails to adequately safeguard our country's fundamental freedoms.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM
PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization. We must provide law enforcement all the tools they need to keep us safe in today's changing world, but we need a bill that strikes a more appropriate balance between civil liberties and fighting the war on terrorism.

Since the enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act in the wake of 9/11, I have met with many constituents and countless groups to discuss the details of this controversial legislation. At a town hall meeting I hosted, the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island and a representative of the state's American Civil Liberties Union passionately argued their cases. Some agreed with the U.S. Attorney that only the USA PATRIOT Act can prevent us from another attack. However, most of that crowd, as well as most Rhode Islanders, worry that we have already ceded too much ground on our precious civil liberties. In my state, six cities and towns have passed resolutions opposing parts of the USA PATRIOT Act, and my constituents understand what this bill means to them and their freedom.

Keeping America safe is not a partisan issue, but unfortunately, several provisions of

this bill are. We could have reached a bipartisan solution to extend the provisions that are effective, such as permitting searches to the Internet and e-mail, and modify the provisions that need changes, such as the searching of library records and "sneak and peek" searches, to which Congress has already voiced strong and clear opposition. Instead, we forgo Congressional oversight and take away future opportunities for review.

I am most troubled that the Rules Committee has not permitted a single amendment to determine if 15 controversial provisions should expire. Sunsets require Congress to review the Act, extend what is working, and change what is not. Sunsets would make the bill better, and ensure regular oversight, but the rule does not permit us to vote on this important modification. Simply adding sunsets could have made the H.R. 3199 more palatable, and I am confident it could have had strong bipartisan support. However, the Republicans have again chosen division over unity.

I recognize the need for our laws to keep pace with new technology and a changing world, and I am committed to ensuring our law enforcement has the tools they need to keep our nation safe. However, providing these tools need not come at the expense of the liberties and freedoms that we hold so dear. If we cede these, we have already given up the very values the terrorists are trying to destroy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to make many changes in H.R. 3199 to fight terrorism and protect our freedoms. I am encouraged that the Senate is taking a more bipartisan approach to renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act, and I look forward to a conference agreement that we can all support to protect our liberties and our country.

FREEDOM FOR GUIDO SIGLER
AMAYA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Guido Sigler Amaya, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sigler Amaya is a member of the Alternative Option Movement, and an activist of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. According to Amnesty International, he has been detained and harassed several times in the past. He was incarcerated in the totalitarian gulag in December 1999, after participating in a peaceful demonstration to celebrate the 51st anniversary on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2002, he was again detained when he attempted to meet at a home in Havana to discuss human rights.

Despite the constant threats, despite being previously incarcerated in the gulag, Mr. Sigler Amaya never gave up his dignified struggle for democracy and basic human rights. Unfortunately, as part of the dictator's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown, Mr. Sigler Amaya was arrested. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Sigler Amaya is languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag because of his peaceful ac-

tions to promote basic human rights: The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." It is a crime of the highest order that brave men and women are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in freedom.

Tragically, Mr. Guido Sigler Amaya is not the only member of his family sentenced to the totalitarian gulag. His brothers, Ariel and Miguel Sigler Amaya, whom I will speak about in the coming weeks, have been sentenced to 20 years and over 2 years in the gulag, respectively. These three brothers are brilliant and admirable examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how severe the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women who represent the very best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these three brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Guido Sigler Amaya, Ariel Sigler Amaya, Miguel Sigler Amaya and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CELEBRATING THE UNVEILING OF
THOMAS JEFFERSON STATUE
IN JEFFERSON PARK

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the citizens of the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago in celebrating the unveiling of the new statue of Thomas Jefferson. The ceremony that will take place tomorrow is the culmination of years of work by many members of the community, and I am pleased to offer my gratitude and congratulations on this exciting event.

Jefferson Park, on Chicago's northwest side, is one of the most unique and interesting neighborhoods in Chicago and I am proud to represent its citizens in the U.S. House of Representatives. The mix of cultural and ethnic divergences is unrivaled in our great city. The Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce is one of the most active organizations in my district, and I applaud their efforts to honor our nation's 3rd President with this outstanding statue.

The bronze statue, the first life-sized statue of President Jefferson in the state of Illinois, was created by sculptor, Edward Hlavka. It depicts President Jefferson at a writing table signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence. Surrounding the statue are 13 pedestals representing the original American colonies, along with the inscription of one his most famous quotes, "The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government."

The statue will adorn the front of the Chicago Transit Authority station in Jefferson Park, the major hub for commuters on the northwest side, and was made possible through the leadership of the Jefferson Park Chamber, Alderman Patrick J. Levar, State