

bring security in space. The suffering people of Burma deserve better, but apparently the Chinese and Russian Governments don't think so.

RESTORE ACT

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today the House will debate the RESTORE Act, a bill that ensures the intelligence community has the tools that it needs to conduct surveillance of foreign targets outside of the United States, while at the same time restoring constitutional checks and balances that were omitted from the Bush administration's FISA bill.

I do not pretend that this is the perfect bill; few bills meet that standard. However, the President has made many false claims about it. For example, he has claimed that this bill will unnecessarily delay the collection of foreign intelligence information and may cause us to "go dark" while chasing leads. That's blatantly false.

The RESTORE Act allows for immediate collection in emergency situations without obtaining court approval, so we will never go dark. However, unlike current law, the RESTORE Act puts the FISA Court back in the business of protecting Americans' private communications, just as Congress intended when it created FISA.

To have a truly secure America, without compromising American values, we must fight terrorists without jeopardizing the civil liberties that make our Nation great.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RESTORE ACT

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, Washington Democrats have once again shown their true colors on FISA. Spurred by the ACLU and their leftist liberal friends, Democrats released a weak and ill-conceived attempt at reforming our national security intelligence laws.

Today, advancements in satellite and fiber-optic technologies have led to incredible gains in every area of our society, including health care, economic expansion, education, and military operations. Unfortunately, though, our laws have not advanced and our intelligence community continues to face significant obstacles because of simplistic and antiquated laws.

Make no mistake, we live in a time when extremist groups continue to plot acts of terror against us both abroad and here at home. National Intelligence Director Mike McConnell outlined a list of obstacles he faces with

the current FISA law and the tools he needs to correct these problems. Sadly, the bill proposed by the Democrats leaves our intelligence community in the dark. This is too important to play political games with foreign intelligence. We need to vote "no" on this bill.

SCHIP

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Every day, hard-working moms and dads without health coverage worry about their children getting the care they need.

Under this President's watch, the number of uninsured children in this country has grown for the first time in years, and what has the President done? Nothing. That's right, nothing. This President has done nothing. Will Republican Members of Congress stand with the President and also do nothing, or will they stand with America's children? Ten million children and their families are waiting to find out.

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A TRAGEDY OF OUR OWN MAKING

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. I rise to call attention to a tragedy of our own making. In May of this year, a U.S. soldier, Alex Jimenez, along with several of his friends, were captured by al Qaeda. As our intelligence officers wanted to tap into wires to try to find his whereabouts, they were hobbled and had to wait 10 hours for lawyers to get through the FISA Court to allow them to get the critical information they needed. That information lost, this soldier and his compatriots have never been found, although the bodies of one or two have been found.

The Democrats want to expand this FISA process now to our warfighting capabilities and hobble our soldiers to have to wait for hours and hours for lawyers to approve gathering information.

Back when I was in the State of Missouri, we had jokes between farmers and lawyers. They were kind of funny. But this is not a funny joke. How many lawyers does it take to rescue a hostage? The answer should be zero.

Now, the Democrats want to undermine our relationship with Turkey which will cripple our military's efforts.

If the Democrats want to pull our troops out of Iraq then have the courage to defund the war.

Otherwise, stop handicapping our military with bureaucratic red tape that will undermine their mission. The lives of our military personnel are on the line.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS PUT FISA COURT BACK IN BUSINESS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the House will put the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court back in business after being shut down for the past 6 years. House Democrats know that our highest duty is to defend this Nation and protect our citizens. And we also know we can keep this Nation safe without our own government trampling the civil rights of our citizens and the principles upon which this country was founded.

Before 2001, the FISA Court served as a check and balance to the administration to ensure that critical individual rights were not trampled. Such checks and balances have not been in place for the last 6 years. Today, by passing the RESTORE Act, we restore the true role of the FISA Court by addressing the concerns we have with the Bush administration ignoring the FISA Court, jeopardizing our rights, violating our Constitution, and our core principles.

Mr. Speaker, the RESTORE Act is a bill that all Members should be able to support. It provides a proper balance of giving our government the legal tools to go after terrorists without trampling our American beliefs and values.

UPDATE OUR INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in this day and age of new technologies and vicious unconventional terrorism, we need to provide our intelligence community with the tools and resources necessary to protect our families. That is why we must pass a permanent update to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that will protect the privacy of Americans while restoring our intelligence-gathering capabilities.

Unfortunately, the RESTORE Act, the Democrat FISA bill, jeopardizes our intelligence capability and provides unprecedented protections for terrorists. It is a step in the wrong direction. The Protect America Act signed into law in August made critical changes that help intelligence officials properly track our enemies. It should be extended.

The National Intelligence Director, Mike McConnell, said this law was urgently needed by our intelligence professionals to close critical gaps in our capabilities and permit them to more readily follow terrorist threats. We should keep American families safer and make these changes permanent.

In conclusion God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.