

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of June 18, 2008, I erroneously voted to override the President's veto on H.R. 6124, (roll call No. 417), the Food, Conservation and Energy Act. I intended to vote "nay" and sustain the President's veto.

## FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6304, the "FISA Amendments Act of 2008."

I first want to thank Majority Leader HOYER and other Members who worked very hard to arrive at a compromise with the Senate. I think this bill is an improvement over S. 1927, the "Protect America Act," and the Senate bill we considered earlier this year. For example, H.R. 6304 makes it crystal clear that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, is the exclusive means under which surveillance is conducted and states that any exceptions in the future must be specifically authorized.

However, I cannot support H.R. 6304 because of the issues of reverse targeting and retroactive immunity for telecommunications companies. The strong protections against reverse targeting contained in prior House measures, which I supported, are absent from this bill. Reverse targeting, which refers to spying on Americans by targeting those abroad with whom they are believed to be communicating, opens a loophole for the Federal Government to violate the privacy of American citizens.

Most significantly, the retroactive immunity provisions will block the American public's ability to hold the telecommunications companies accountable for participating in the Federal Government's domestic warrantless surveillance program. Courts will have no real power to review the administration's prior orders for surveillance activities. We may never learn the extent of the violations of Americans' privacy which may have occurred or companies which may have participated.

I ask my colleagues to stand up for our values and vote no on this flawed bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the record to reflect my intentions had I been present. Had I been present for rollcall No. 414, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 415, I would have voted

"aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 416, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 417, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 418, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 419, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 420, I would have voted "nay". Had I been present for rollcall No. 421, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 422, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 423, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 424, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 425, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 426, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 427, I would have voted "nay". Had I been present for rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 430, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 431, I would have voted "nay". Had I been present for rollcall No. 432, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 433, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 434, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 435, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 436, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 437, I would have voted "nay".

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF  
TONI ANN SECREST**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise in heartfelt gratitude to Assistant Principal Toni Ann Secrest who is retiring after 38 passionate years of service to the students, faculty and parents of Mercy High School in Burlingame, California.

Ms. Secrest arrived at Mercy in 1970, just two years after I graduated. While I had the best teachers a student could ask for, Toni Ann Secrest is one more reason why I wish I was just a little younger. Her energetic approach to teaching, her love of all things historical and her captivating and entertaining storytelling ability are legendary.

Toni Ann's students, it is said, never graduate. She instills in them the love of critical thinking and intellectual examination that inspires them to continue along the path of lifelong learning. This didn't stop when she moved out of the classroom and into the counselor's chair. Seeing the mission of her new job as much more than advising on college and careers, Ms. Secrest offered real counsel. Students always left her office more inspired and infinitely more hopeful than they went in.

As Assistant Principal, Toni Ann Secrest was without peer. She brought Mercy High School into the information age by revamping the curriculum to replace typing classes with computer science. She brought the faculty and administration up-to-date also, even if it meant dragging them against their will to learn and embrace new technologies.

Toni Ann is adored by her former students. To a person, they remember her intellect, her

kindness and her style. Toni Ann dresses like she lives. She sets an example. As one student recalled, "Ms. Secrest always had it going on." To this day, she is the best-dressed person in any room.

Madam Speaker, like you, Toni Ann Secrest is a pioneer. She was a member of the first co-ed graduating class of the University of San Francisco, where she got her degree in History. She also has a master's in Counseling from USF and has earned her Secondary Teaching Credential for Life and a Pupil Personnel Credential for Life.

And what a life! Admired by all who work with her (especially me), appreciated by the thousands she has mentored, loved by her large extended family and appreciated by her community.

## FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act.

Among the casualties of the "war on terror" has been the guarantee of civil liberties and right to privacy of American citizens upon which our nation was founded. Time and again, throughout his Presidency, George Bush has shown absolute indifference to the Constitution and the principles upon which it stands.

This disregard for the Constitution was never clearer than last summer when President Bush signed into law the Protect America Act, which I opposed then and continue to oppose to this day, a law that gave the President unprecedented authority to spy on Americans.

As Congress began to consider new legislation, I had hoped that we could reach a compromise that strikes the right balance between protecting the rights of individual Americans and protecting our nation's security. Like all of my colleagues in Congress, I believe that our nation must aggressively pursue terrorist targets in the United States and abroad. However, I know the United States is capable of doing so within a framework that respects the Constitution of the United States.

Many provisions within this bill are an improvement over the Protect America Act, especially the provision on exclusively, which affirms that the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) is the exclusive means to conduct electronic surveillance of Americans for the purpose of foreign intelligence collection.

However, I believe firmly that the bill before us today does not do enough to protect the privacy rights of individual Americans and therefore I cannot in good conscience vote for its passage. Here are some of the problems with the bill before us today:

H.R. 6304 contains an "exigent circumstances" loophole that permits the Administration to conduct surveillance on Americans without getting a warrant for up to seven days every time "intelligence important to the national security of the US may be lost or not timely acquired." The problem with language this open-ended is that an Administration, like the Bush Administration, can use this language as an invitation to repeatedly spy on