

This is the type of innovation and creativity taking place in Maryland. I can name dozens more small innovative companies working in biosciences, life sciences, and cyber security areas.

At Brain Scope they started with two employees. They now have over 20. This is a common story. These are good-paying jobs created here in Maryland, in the United States of America.

Lions Brothers in Owings Mills, MD. If you have ever seen a uniform with emblems on it, it was most likely done at Lions Brothers. They have figured out a way in which they can produce this product—which is used not only for sports gear, but the U.S. Government for uniforms, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts.

What is common in each of these companies? They are innovators. They find creative ways to create and expand markets. They are creating more jobs, and they are creating good-paying jobs.

We could name every State in this country where we have seen this creativity. We have duplicated this throughout our country. But the message is clear: Our country can take off, but we have to give predictability to our businesses. That is why the work being done in the conference committee on the budget is so important. We can't go through another manufactured crisis, another shutdown, another threatened default on our debt, the continuation of sequestration. It needs to end. We need to have a budget which allows for the type of government partnership for that type of economic growth—the basic research, the educated workforce, the modern roads and infrastructure and energy systems. That is what we need to have so the companies I mentioned can continue to lead the world in innovation, creativity, and creating the jobs we need—the good-paying jobs in America.

If we act, I am confident America will compete and win the global competition. “Made in Maryland” has been a huge success and has been duplicated all over our country. Let us act and get our work done so we truly can make it in America.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL LANDSBERRY

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I rise today to address the public revelations regarding classified government surveillance programs. But before I do so, I would like to take a moment to honor Mike Landsberry, who died a hero's death in Sparks, NV, last week.

After spotting a student with a gun at Sparks Middle School, Mr.

Landsberry moved directly in harm's way to protect his students and others from danger. He was fatally shot.

Mr. Landsberry was an Alabama native, a graduate of McQueen High School in Sparks, a University of Nevada-Reno graduate, and a decorated master sergeant Nevada Guard airman.

To his students, he was a coach, a teacher, and also a mentor. To his community, Mr. Landsberry was a patriot, a father, and a friend. Master Sergeant Landsberry leaves behind a legacy of self-sacrifice and service to his country and community. He will continue to be remembered as a great and honorable man and a father.

USA FREEDOM ACT

Mr. HELLER. I would also like to briefly discuss current National Security Agency practices, including its bulk data collection programs and the implication these programs have for the privacy of Nevadans and millions of other law-abiding citizens.

Due to published reports in newspapers around the world, Nevadans are well aware that the Federal Government has been collecting phone data of law-abiding citizens without their knowledge through a process known as bulk collection. These practices are mostly authorized by section 215 of the PATRIOT Act.

Specifically, section 215 permits the FBI to seek a court order directing a business to turn over certain records when there are reasonable grounds to believe the information sought is relevant to an authorized investigation of international terrorism.

“Relevance” has been found by the courts to be a broad standard that, in effect, allows large volumes of data to be collected. These same records can be combed through in order to identify smaller amounts of information that are relevant to an ongoing investigation. In other words, it has been established that section 215 allows for massive amounts of data to be collected in order to find the tiny amount of data that would solve an investigation regarding international terrorism. The court's reasoning that this is permitted is because, when submitted, it is likely that the data will produce information that will then help the FBI.

Millions of Americans' call records are collected and stored by the NSA because a few numbers may solve an authorized investigation. Supporters of bulk collection practices have defended this program as an important tool in the fight against terror. They have said this is a mechanism to access the logs quickly, and they are not actually listening to the content.

President Obama even said:

When it comes to telephone calls, nobody is listening to your telephone call. Instead, the government was just sifting through this so-called metadata.

The President is correct. They are not listening to the actual calls like the FBI conducting a wiretap, but let

me outline that the government can figure out what is going on from those call logs.

For example, they will know that an American citizen in Ely, NV, received a call from the local NRA office and then called their Representative and Senators. But they claim that the content of that call remains safe from government intrusion or they will also know that a Nevadan from Las Vegas called a suicide prevention hotline and spoke to an individual for 12 minutes, but they will not know what that person discussed.

The question I have is this: Why does the Federal Government have to house this data? I believe it is because Congress has authorized a massive surrender of our constituents' privacy.

I want to be clear: I share the concerns of all Americans that we must protect ourselves against threats to the homeland. I also believe we must continue to understand that terrorism is very real and that the United States is the target of those looking to undermine the freedoms we hold as a core of our national identity. Are we sacrificing our own freedoms in the process? Are we sacrificing our constitutional rights that are afforded under the Fourth Amendment? If so, this is a steep price to pay to protect Americans from terrorism.

So the next question must be: If the price to protect Americans from terrorism is an incredible loss of individual privacy, what are the results of this program?

What has the bulk collection program provided in tangible results that justifies a privacy intrusion of this level?

The answer is that two cases have been solved in the collection of millions of records through the use of the program authorized by section 215. We know that because on October 2, 2013, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, asked the NSA Director Keith Alexander the following question:

At our last hearing, the deputy director, Mr. Ingliss, stated that there's only really one example of a case where, but for the use of Section 215, both phone records collection, terrorist activity was stopped. Was Mr. Ingliss right?

To which Director Alexander responded, “He's right. I believe he said two, Chairman.”

Congress has authorized the collection of millions of law-abiding citizens' telephone metadata for years, and it has only solved two ongoing FBI investigations. Of those two investigations, the NSA has publicly identified one. In fact, that case would have easily been handled by obtaining a warrant and going to that telephone company. The case involved an individual in San Diego who was convicted of sending \$8,500 to Somalia in support of al-Shabaab, the terrorist organization claiming responsibility for the Kenyan mall attack. The American phone records allowed the NSA to determine