

Stop PATRIOT Act Abuses. Demand JUSTICE.

The PATRIOT Act must not be reauthorized unless and until necessary privacy and civil liberties protections are added. Here's why:

The [PATRIOT Act powers scheduled to expire this year](#) don't actually make us safer.

The government has done a fine job of addressing terrorism without the vast and unchecked powers of the PATRIOT Act. Some provisions (e.g., the "lone wolf" powers set to expire in May) have *never even been used* in the decade since the PATRIOT Act was first enacted, and others have repeatedly faced criticism from internal government watchdogs about recurring abuses unhinged from national security. Why sacrifice the privacy of law-abiding Americans for powers that aren't even needed?

Stopping PATRIOT Act abuses is Congress's constitutional responsibility.

Congress' job includes a constitutional responsibility to check and balance the Executive Branch. Internal government watchdogs have already documented tens of thousands of instances of abuse under administrations from both parties, which have never been addressed or corrected. Congress should insist on long overdue reforms before writing the intelligence agencies yet another blank check.

If we don't make these changes now, the PATRIOT Act may be made permanent.

The House leadership favors permanent reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. If privacy and civil liberties protections aren't added now, Congress will shackle itself and severely limit its oversight opportunities in the future. Permanent reauthorization would also allow the Executive Branch to continue and expand on previously documented abuses under administrations from both political parties.

Both Democrats and Republicans oppose the PATRIOT Act.

Opposing the PATRIOT Act—by supporting the JUSTICE Act—is one way for members of Congress to gain support from both sides of the aisle. Americans from all walks of life—and both major political parties—share serious concerns about the PATRIOT Act, but few in either party are passionate supporters of unchecked government authority to abuse the rights of Americans.

Opposing the PATRIOT Act demonstrates that members of Congress are listening to their constituents—instead of the Washington establishment.

If any theme has dominated the last several elections, it is that voters distrust representatives who take their cues from inside the Beltway rather than their constituents. Both parties are now dominated by populists who want their elected officials to place the people's needs before the government's. Voting to stop abuses under the PATRIOT Act will send that message loud and clear.

Stopping PATRIOT Act excesses will reduce spending and help balance the federal budget.

By authorizing expensive government investigations without adequate controls, the PATRIOT Act not only violates the Constitution, but also inflates the federal budget. At a time when states are laying off teachers and struggling to stay afloat, we should make sure that intelligence agencies spend their money wisely, instead of inviting them to pursue dragnet investigations at the taxpayers' expense.