



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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14 March 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Grassley,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 193, the “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act Sunset Extension Act,” which was recently reported favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary.

This legislation would reauthorize three provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act—authorizations for roving wiretaps, the “lone wolf” measure, and orders for tangible things (commonly referred to as “Section 215”)—which are set to expire in May of this year. These provisions enable law enforcement officers to use the same investigative tools used in criminal cases against suspected terrorists seeking to attack our nation and its people. Without it, the intelligence and law enforcement communities will be unable to share information about the ongoing threats our nation faces and the ability of law enforcement to prevent future attacks will be considerably lessened.

The bill would renew all of these provisions until 13 December 2013, at which time the Administration, Congress and the law enforcement and intelligence communities can again come together to assess the effectiveness of these legal tools and make necessary changes so as best to respond to the needs of the fight against terrorism. Terrorists and terrorist organizations are not a static threat—they adapt and evolve, and the tactics and statutes we adopt to counter them must be equally flexible.

The legislation passed by the Committee on the Judiciary makes minor changes to the law, but these reflect current practices already in place and in use in terrorist investigations. The bill will maintain tools used by law enforcement just as they do now without additional barriers or legal loopholes.

We recognize that, in popular and media culture, the USA PATRIOT Act is portrayed as controversial. This is an unjust and inaccurate portrayal. The law is one which has been carefully considered and judiciously used and there is no record that any of the authorities

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

granted by the Act have been abused. It is a tool to catch terrorists and prevent terrorism, nothing more.

It is our hope that the full Senate will act quickly on the legislation in the coming weeks—well before we get closer to the expiration of these important provisions. As always, on behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you both for your leadership on this and so many other issues important to law enforcement. If I can provide any further information about the importance of this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President