

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 bans the bulk collection of Americans' private records under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act.

- The bill enacts significant reforms to the national security authorities that the government has used to justify collecting Americans' telephone records and Internet metadata in bulk.
- It bans bulk collection under Section 215 and the FISA pen register statute by requiring the government to limit the scope of its collection to the greatest extent reasonably practicable, and prohibiting the government from collecting all information relating to a particular service provider or broad geographic region, such as a city or area code. It also bans bulk collection under national security letter authorities.

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 provides the Intelligence Community with the authority it needs to collect phone records in a more targeted manner.

- To replace indiscriminate bulk collection, the bill authorizes the government to obtain two hops of "call detail records" on a daily basis, if it can demonstrate to the FISA Court reasonable, articulable suspicion that its search term is associated with a foreign terrorist organization.

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 provides greater transparency about surveillance activities.

- The bill contains significant new government reporting requirements for FISA authorities.
- The bill gives private companies increased options for reporting to the public information about the number of FISA orders and national security letters they receive.
- The bill requires declassification of FISA Court opinions containing significant legal interpretations, or a summary if declassification is not possible.

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 authorizes an amicus at the FISA Court.

- The bill requires the FISA Court to designate a panel of amicus curiae who the court can appoint to assist in particular cases involving novel or significant legal issues.
- The bill expands the opportunity for appellate review of FISA Court decisions.

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 also –

- strengthens judicial review of Section 215 and National Security Letter gag orders;
- imposes new privacy protections for FISA pen registers;
- limits the use of unlawfully obtained information under Section 702 of FISA;
- extends the three June 2015 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act sunsets to December 2019;
- authorizes transitional surveillance of non-U.S. persons who come into the United States before emergency authorization can be obtained from the Attorney General, but only where a lapse in surveillance would be likely to result in death or serious bodily harm;
- increases the statutory maximum for material support for terrorism from 15 years to 20 years; and
- implements provisions of four multilateral counterterrorism treaties concerning the use of weapons of mass destruction or attacks involving ships and maritime platforms.