



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

---

## *House of Representatives*

### STATEMENT ON NSA REFORM

Hon. Suzan DelBene  
OF WASHINGTON

*Washington, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014*

**Ms. DELBENE:** Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act, I am disappointed that I cannot support this bill as it is considered on the floor today.

Like many Americans, I was shocked to learn about the National Security Agency's domestic spying program that was sweeping up the private communications records of millions of innocent Americans. It goes against American values and our Constitution. That's why two weeks ago I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in unanimously supporting the USA Freedom Act as it passed out of the committee.

I believed that the compromise, while far from perfect, would help rebuild the public trust in government by ending bulk collection, assuring that government surveillance authorities are rule-bound, narrowly tailored, transparent and subject to oversight, all while ensuring that the nation's intelligence community

can protect national security.

Unfortunately, since then, negotiations with the Administration have resulted in this bill moving in the wrong direction. While I believe that the intent of this bill is to end bulk collection and I am glad that there is widespread agreement that Congress must act to end bulk collection, I am not convinced the bill effectively achieves this. The weakened definition of "specific selection term" must be addressed as this bill moves forward in order to provide absolute certainty that the legislative language achieves this intent, and that the bill's ban on bulk collection is air-tight. Today's bill simply falls short of what is needed to provide a clear guarantee to the public that the massive data collection by the NSA will be put to a full stop.

I appreciate the efforts of the Committees and Leadership to support greater transparency in the bill. The transparency reporting amendment that I



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

---

---

## *House of Representatives*

offered in the Judiciary Committee that is included in the bill will allow companies to disclose information regarding the number and nature of government demands for user information. However, the new manager's amendment that we are considering on the House floor today has weakened this provision by, for example, adding a two-year delay that prohibits companies from issuing transparency reports for new products or services. I offered several amendments to

the Rules Committee to address my concerns with the weakened language in the manager's amendment, but none of these amendments were given an opportunity for debate or a vote on the House floor.

I thank the Committees and the Leadership for their work to move this important conversation forward, but I simply cannot support the bill in its current form.