

November 6, 2017

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We, the undersigned 43 civil liberties, civil rights, and transparency organizations, urge you to support the “shut the backdoor” amendment, offered by Reps. Ted Poe (R-TX) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), to help close the “backdoor search loophole” when the House Judiciary Committee holds a markup for the USA Liberty Act, set for Wednesday.

The USA Liberty Act reauthorizes Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act, which allows collection of foreign intelligence information but sweeps in U.S. person communications. The government uses the loophole to search its massive databases—without first obtaining a court-issued warrant based on probable cause—for information about U.S. persons and persons inside the United States. As Sen. Feinstein recently noted, these searches violate the Constitution and undermine Americans’ right to privacy.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org	Free the People
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government	Freedom of the Press Foundation
American Civil Liberties Union	Government Accountability Project
American Library Association	Government Information Watch
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee	Liberty Coalition
Association of Research Libraries	Media Alliance
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law	National Coalition Against Censorship
Campaign for Liberty	National Immigration Law Center
Center for Democracy and Technology	National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
Center for Human Rights and Privacy	New America's Open Technology Institute
Center for Media Justice	Oakland Privacy
Center for Popular Democracy	OpenTheGovernment
Color Of Change	People For the American Way
Constitutional Alliance	Presente.org
Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)	Restore The Fourth
Daily Kos	RootsAction.org
Defending Rights & Dissent	SumOfUs
Demand Progress Action	The Constitution Project
Electronic Frontier Foundation	UltraViolet
FirstAmendment.com	Union for Reform Judaism
Free Press Action Fund	Win Without War
	Yemen Peace Project