

June 13, 2019

Dear Representatives:

The undersigned 47 groups write to urge your support for the Amash-Lofgren amendment (Division C, amendment #24) to H.R. 2740, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2020.

We represent a cross-partisan coalition of civil liberties, transparency, and government oversight organizations committed to reining in the warrantless surveillance of people in the United States. The Amash-Lofgren amendment would accomplish this by limiting the warrantless surveillance conducted pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Specifically, the Amash-Lofgren amendment prohibits:

1. The intentional targeting of people outside the United States when a significant purpose of that targeting is to acquire communications of a particular person in the United States (often referred to as “reverse targeting”);
2. The acquisition of communications to which no participant is a target (often referred to as “about collection”). The government halted this collection in 2017, but asserts it has the authority to restart this collection; and
3. The acquisition of communications known to be entirely domestic. The government unlawfully collects tens of thousands of wholly domestic communications under Section 702.

As described by the provision’s title, Congress passed Section 702 to target people “outside the United States other than United States persons.” Despite this, the government collects communications of United States persons at a large, but undisclosed scale. This amendment would help ensure Section 702 is only used for the purposes Congress intended and would significantly advance the privacy rights of people within the United States. Accordingly, we urge your support of the Amash-Lofgren amendment.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jason Pye at [jpye@freedomworks.org](mailto:jpye@freedomworks.org) or (202) 942-7634, Neema Singh Guliani at (202) 675-2322 or [nguliani@aclu.org](mailto:nguliani@aclu.org), or Sean Vitka at (570) 798-7678 or [sean@demandprogress.org](mailto:sean@demandprogress.org).

Sincerely yours,

Advocacy for Principled Action in Government  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Arab American Institute  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
Campaign for Liberty  
Center for Democracy & Technology  
Center for Human Rights and Privacy  
Color Of Change  
Consumer Action  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Courage Campaign  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Demand Progress  
Due Process Institute  
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)  
Essential Information  
Fight for the Future  
Free Press Action  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
FreedomWorks  
Government Accountability Project  
Government Information Watch  
Indivisible  
Liberty Coalition  
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice  
MPower Change  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
National Immigrant Law Center  
National Security Archive  
National Security Counselors  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Open the Government  
People For the American Way  
Presente Action

Project on Government Oversight  
Restore the Fourth  
RootsAction.org  
Secure Justice  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Sunlight Foundation  
TechFreedom  
The Calyx Institute  
Win Without War  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
X-Lab