Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 514,

which would extend for 1 year sweeping governmental intrusions into our

lives and privacy that were authorized by the USA PATRIOT Act and the

2004 Intelligence Act. Without meaningful oversight demonstrating that

these extraordinary powers are needed, we should not extend these

provisions for one full year, or for any period of time, for that

matter; and I therefore oppose the bill.

I am opposed because I simply do not accept the argument that in

order to be safe, we necessarily have to sacrifice our rights and

freedoms. I agree with Benjamin Franklin, who stated during the

formation of our Nation that ``they who give up essential liberty to

obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.''

One of the provisions in the bill reauthorizes section 215 of the

Patriot Act that gives the government power to secretly invade our

private records, such as books we read at the library, by merely

alleging that they are relevant to a terrorism investigation, but

without having to show that the seized material is in connection with

any specific suspected terrorists or terrorist activities. There is no

requirement to show probable cause or even reasonable suspicion of

being related to a specific act of terrorism, and therefore there is no

meaningful standard to judge whether or not the material is in fact

necessary.

Another provision of H.R. 514 is section 206 of the Patriot Act,

which is referred to as the ``roving John Doe wiretap provision.'' It

gives the government the power to wiretap a phone conversation without

having to show which phone will be used or even who will be using it

and without requiring a court order for the specific roving tap.

The third provision is section 6001 of the Intelligence Reform and

Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, referred to as the ``lone wolf''

provision. It gives the government the power to spy on individuals in

the United States who are not U.S. citizens or permanent resident

aliens even though they are not agents of a foreign government or any

terrorist organization. Unfortunately, this means that if those

targeted have any interaction with an American citizen, then that U.S.

citizen is spied upon as well.

We already allow spying on such non-citizens outside of the United

States or even in the United States where there is probable cause that

they are agents of a foreign government or members of a terrorist

organization, but this is an extension of that power which could

envelop anybody simply as a result of the occasion of interacting with

a targeted person even while we are in the United States.

The three provisions give the government power to invade our privacy

even when there is no probable cause nor even reasonable suspicion or

credible evidence of any wrongdoing and without allowing the kind of

detached oversight such as a court warrant which is generally called

upon when such power over individuals is extended.

Absent these oversight protections, even after

the fact in the case of emergencies, all three provisions should be

allowed to expire, unless we demonstrate in hearings and oversight

hearings that these powers are necessary and narrowly tailored to

achieve a compelling national security interest. The freedoms and

protections these provisions take away are the very core of our values

and liberties, so these protections should not be legislated away

without rigorous oversight to protect against abuse.