Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak

on this very important issue, the reauthorization of the Patriot Act.

For a variety of reasons, we need to reauthorize this bill.

First and foremost, there are three provisions I think we are all

very familiar with. It's the lone wolf provision, it's the roving

wiretaps of course, which is something else that we very much need to

do, and also the business records provision.

With respect to roving wiretaps, I believe it has already been stated

on this floor, but it should be stated once again: Law enforcement has

been using roving wiretaps for years against drug dealers and organized

crime, I believe since 1986. Extending that roving wiretap provision to

terrorists makes good sense. We have been doing it. We need to give law

enforcement and our intelligence services the tools they need to take

down these terror plots before they become operational. That is why

this extension is needed.

The lone wolf provision, it should be noted, is also important. Many

of the types of plots we are trying to foil now are being carried out

by lone wolves. Major Hasan is a good example. Jihad Jane and others

are lone wolves, and we need this capacity so that we can pursue these

lone wolves just as we would individuals or terrorists who are part of

a terrorist organization or an agent of a foreign power. So that is

absolutely essential.

With respect to the issue of the business records, often people would

say that we are somehow trying to examine one's library records, what

books they are reading. That's really not the case. We know that 9/11

terrorists were using public library computers. We knew that they were

also using university library computers to make plane reservations as

well as to confirm those reservations. So the idea is to be able to

access one's business records. That's what we are after, to make sure

that we cannot only apprehend or go after that individual who is

planning an attack but also that cell or that network of individuals

with whom that individual may be working. That is why we need this

issue of business records contained in this reauthorization.

In fact, I am not even certain that the word ``library'' appears

anywhere in the Patriot Act. Nevertheless, this has been dubbed the

library provision, which really it is not.

For all of these reasons, I think it is critically important that we

continue to provide our law enforcement with the tools they need, our

intelligence services with the tools they need to stop terrorism. We

cannot tie the hands of local law enforcement. We are asking them to do

more and more.

The critics of this legislation often say we need to let law

enforcement fight these battles. This gives them the tools. I urge

passage and support for this reauthorization of the Patriot Act.