Mr. Speaker, at the outset, let me say I'm a

little bit puzzled that my friend from Michigan (Mr. Conyers) is

opposing the extension of these three provisions of the Patriot Act

today because last year, he called up a Senate bill that provided for a

year's extension of these three provisions, and managed the time and

voted for it. And after hearing his comments, I'm wondering why he has

changed his mind.

In 19 days, three national security laws will expire unless Congress

votes to reauthorize them. H.R. 514 temporarily extends these laws--

FISA business records, roving wiretaps, and the lone wolf definition--

until December 8 of this year.

As chairman of the House Judiciary Committee in the last decade, I

oversaw the enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act in response to the 9/11

terrorist attacks. Title II of the act addressed enhanced foreign

intelligence and law enforcement surveillance authority. Sixteen

sections of that title were originally set to expire on December 31,

2005. Also set to expire on that date was section 6001 of the

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which is the

lone wolf definition.

In 2005, I again spearheaded the effort to reauthorize the Patriot

Act. Recognizing the significance of the act to America's

counterterrorism operations and the need for thorough oversight, the

House Judiciary Committee held 9 subcommittee hearings, 3 days of full

committee hearings, then a robust full committee markup reauthorizing

legislation.

The USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 made

permanent 14 of the 16 intelligence provisions. The act extended the

sunset on section 206 FISA roving wiretaps, section 215 FISA business

records, and the lone wolf definition until the end of 2009.

But the three remaining temporary provisions were not reauthorized

before that deadline. Instead, the then-Democratic majority chose twice

to extend the provisions, first for 2 months and then for a year,

without ever bringing a reauthorization bill to the floor.

This Congress, things will be different. We must approve a temporary

extension today to keep these critical national security tools in

place. This extension will afford Congress sufficient time to hold

hearings and markups, then adopt a permanent reauthorization of these

provisions this year, which I intend to introduce soon.

The time for multiple temporary extensions is over. The terrorist

threat has not subsided and will not expire, and neither should our

national security laws.

It is equally important that Congress make permanent the lone wolf

definition. This provision closes the gap in the FISA act and, if

allowed to expire, could permit an individual terrorist to slip through

the cracks and carry out his plot undetected. When FISA was originally

enacted in 1978, terrorists were believed to be members of an

identified group. That's not the case today.

Today, more than ever, we are confronted with threats from loosely

organized terrorist groups or individuals who may subscribe to a

movement or certain beliefs but do not belong to or identify themselves

with a specific terrorist group. Without the lone wolf definition, our

surveillance tools will be powerless to act against this growing threat

to America's security.

Section 206 of the Patriot Act authorizes the use of roving or

multipoint wiretaps for national security and intelligence

investigations. This allows the government to use a single wiretap

order to cover any communications device that the target uses or may

use. Without roving wiretap authority, investigators would be forced to

seek a new court order each time they need to change the location,

phone, or computer that needs to be monitored.

Section 215 of the act allows the FISA court to issue orders granting

the government access to business records in foreign intelligence,

international terrorism, and clandestine intelligence cases. The 2005

act expanded the safeguards against potential abuse of section 215

authority and included additional congressional oversight, procedural

protections, application requirements, and judicial review. Each of

these provisions are integral to defending America's national security

and must be kept intact.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 514.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot said about

national security letters. The authority for them was made permanent in

2006. It is not a part of this bill, so we ought to completely forget

about the complaints about national security letters.

What I will say is that in the 2006 reauthorization of the Patriot

Act there were provisions in it to give recipients of a national

security letter the right to obtain judicial review; and I am proud of

that fact because I think whatever constitutional infirmities there

were in this part of the Patriot Act, they were solved.

Now, we hear an awful lot about no oversight. The people on the other

side of the aisle who are complaining about this had the authority to

have oversight hearings. There was only one of them in the last

Congress. Compare that to the nine subcommittee hearings, three full

committee hearings, and the full markup that we had in 2006 when this

side of the aisle had the majority. The people who have been doing the

oversight have been the Republicans, not the Democrats. The people who

know this law is making Americans safer are the Republicans, and the

Democrats once again are complaining.