I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, the powers of intelligence and enforcement are among the

most important powers of government, but also the most fearsome. They

must be wielded very, very carefully. For decades, our government

routinely has collected information on potential foreign threats

through various forms of surveillance. These collection activities

enjoy broad bipartisan support in our country because of their value in

helping to protect American citizens and interests.

However, in the 1960s and 1970s, these collection capabilities were

turned on the American people and executive branch agencies engaged in

spying on the American public, sometimes even for political purposes.

The ensuing public backlash triggered the adoption of legal reforms

that gave us laws to help prevent a repeat of these abuses.

Subsequently, the tragedy of September 11, 2001, gave proponents of

extended domestic surveillance a powerful political and rhetorical

weapon, which they used to reduce constitutional protections against

surveillance and seizures without appropriate warrants.

When the Congress passed the Patriot Act in March of 2006, it

included sunset requirements of three provisions that you've heard

about today. Since 2005, I've voted against extending these and other

provisions because these provisions are overly broad and frequently

abused while still not improving truly the security of the American

people. My concerns are supported by the revelations of abuses of those

authorities during hearings of the House Judiciary Committee in 2009

and in multiple reports issued by the Inspector General of the

Department of Justice.

The bill before us today does nothing to fix these problems or

prevent future abuses. This bill does not raise the standards for

intelligence collection to ensure that the right people are targeted in

the first place. The law was not meant to sunset so that we could

periodically reauthorize it, unchanged. We're now on the verge of the

third ``temporary'' extension, with no remedies for the flaws

identified by this body and the Department of Justice Inspector

General.

For all of these reasons, I urge Members to vote ``no.''