We believe the government should not be able to access citizens emails that are older than 180 days based on the reasonable expectation of privacy that many Americans place upon the use of online email accounts, and concern about giving the government too much discretion in criminal investigations.

The United States government is a democracy that has established various rights for its citizens as ascribed in the Constitution of the United States. Amendments, such as the Fourth Amendment, have been written to formally change the text of the written Constitution. According to the Fourth Amendment, it is the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures. We interpret this to include emails since they originate from the homes of citizens and are carried through the lines of an internet service provider until it reaches its destination. Since the ISPs have full access to all emails, then why should the government have additional access to the personal email of citizens? According to The Museum of Email and Digital Communications, the US Federal Courts recently ruled that email held by an ISP Server is subject to the protections of the Fourth Amendment. This is an important ruling that puts email on the same level as letters and phone calls as a possible and accepted form of personal communication. The role of the Fourth Amendment is to protect personal communication so it makes sense that email is afforded the same protection as other popular forms of personal communication.

The government could tap into a citizen’s financial records, spending habits, work records, online habits and fabricate family history or financial documents in the pursuit of criminal investigations. Police Officers have been caught framing or plagiarizing information against citizens in the past in order to beef up arrest rates or somehow have their statistics appear better than what they actually are.

In conclusion, if the citizens of the United States are refused the right to store email for more than 180 days without the government having access to it, then the laws that govern our society should be reviewed and amended.