Dear Senator Stabenow,

When your fellow Americans feel unreasonably suspected of crime by their own government, drastic measures need to be taken to ensure that the fundamental principles of our entire country is not compromised. The belief that any federal agency should have the right to invade the privacy of their own citizens is not justified in any Democratic government. Although the NSA has claimed that they are not invading the privacy and rights of American citizens through the Patriot Act, Edward Snowden’s released documents exposing the acts of the NSA prove otherwise. Thus, by exposing these classified documents, it is revealed that the actions of the Patriot Act blatantly contradicts the constitution, and reform through the Freedom Act is needed.

The Patriot Act is unconstitutional due to its violation of the first and fourth amendment. The actual directive of the NSA is to ensure security of information, not to spy on people. How is it ethical for an organization to exploit the trust of the American people and store data through the guise of national security? Our founding fathers sacrificed their lives fighting the Revolutionary War to establish a set of beliefs that guaranteed the enduring civil liberties of every American, and now we have completely disregarded all of their blood, sweat, and tears by violating the aforementioned amendments. The first amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press while the fourth amendment states, “people have the right to be secure… against unreasonable searches and seizures.” The Patriot Act has allowed the NSA to spy on all American citizens, and this action constitutes an unreasonable search. The Patriot Act oversteps its rightful bounds, even according to Patriot Act authors who have said that it was never supposed to be used to spy and collect call records. By allowing the NSA to bypass these rights, we have contradicted our judiciary values to a current assumption of citizens being considered guilty until proven innocent.

Some may say the Patriot Act is necessary because it prevents major threats to the well­being of the American people, whereas the Freedom Act may fall short. However, when combating the threats against the United States, the NSA has failed to prevent many violent threats with the Patriot Act. They were completely caught off guard in Sandy Hook, the Boston Marathon bombing, and most recently, the Charleston church shootings, which all occurred under the supposed protection of the Patriot Act. How did the NSA not catch multiple searches for bomb crafting, racial wars, and shooting tactics? It is obvious the NSA does not adequately help detect threats to our national security, even with its overzealous Patriot Act in effect. The NSA should instead focus on international threats and only justifiable domestic matters. This is guaranteed by the Freedom Act’s clause which requires reasonable suspicion independently verified by an independent court, making use of our government’s fundamental system of checks and balances.

You and your fellow senators have the ability and responsibility to correct a previously faulty act and replace it with the biggest reform effort since 1978. Vote the Reform Act into law today.