Abraham Lincoln addressed Congress with a speech on the intense conflicts pertaining to security and liberty on July 4, 1864. As Lincoln spoke to Congress, he asked, “Is there, in all republics this inherent and fatal weakness? Must the Government, of necessity, be too strong for the liberties of its own people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?” At that time, the speech was just as important as it is now in our everyday lives. On occasion, the government must be strong and sacrifice some of our own freedoms and liberties for the safety of us all, even our cyber rights and freedoms.

Although the government has many responsibilities, the main priority is the protection and security of the people. Our government has guaranteed many rights and freedoms for its citizens, but these rights have been put to the test. In events like 9-11, the government has suspended certain freedoms and liberties for our overall security such as the USA PATRIOT Act. The USA PATRIOT Act helps defend us from, deter, and punish those suspected of terrorism, those willing and fully able to tremendously damage our country. Abuses can occur when the USA PATRIOT Act is used to illegally obtain personal information for those that are not known terrorists. When the government oversteps its boundaries, it is the responsibility of the people to stand up and make sure the government does not continue to abuse its power.

The government relies on armed forces to protect the citizens from any threat that could be of harm. These forces, along with the government, use important data bases containing classified information to be used for our country’s security. The use of the internet has provided the opportunity to break into important governmental and military files. It is important that this information be protected. Boundaries must be established so terrorists, along with other hackers, do not obtain this information illegally.

The internet plays a key role in an average person’s life. The internet allows people to communicate, make social connections, buy and sell items, and much more. While using the internet, most of our rights and freedoms are based on the first amendment that says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” In relation to freedom of speech and freedom of press, privacy comes into play. While using the internet, privacy is a priority.

As it has been stated, the government has many responsibilities. It is the government’s first duty to protect the people, and they may need to temporarily suspend rights and freedoms of ours to fulfill their primary duty. The government must be able to waive some of our rights, even our cyber freedoms, for a short time for the protection and security of the citizens of this great country.