

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO RETHINK PORTIONS OF THE USA PATRIOT ACT!

In its wisdom, Congress included a series of "sunset" sections in the PATRIOT Act, which will cause certain controversial provisions to expire unless Congress votes to renew them this year. YOU can help keep Congress to its promise of a full and fair debate on the law.

◆ The ACLU's landing page for all things PATRIOT Act, including the text of the law, is at: www.aclu.org/patriot

◆ Information on the bipartisan PATRIOT Act reform proposal known as the SAFE Act is at: www.aclu.org/safe

◆ For a full guide to what sunsets, visit www.aclu.org/sunsets



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JUST 45 DAYS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, WITH VIRTUALLY NO DEBATE, CONGRESS PASSED THE

USA PATRIOT Act.

MANY SECTIONS OF THIS SWEEPING LEGISLATION TAKE AWAY CHECKS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THREATEN THE VERY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THAT WE ARE STRUGGLING TO PROTECT...



UNDER THIS SWEEPING LEGISLATION THE GOVERNMENT CAN...

- 1 SEARCH YOUR HOME AND NOT EVEN TELL YOU.** The USA PATRIOT Act expands law enforcement's ability to conduct secret "sneak and peek" searches of your home. Investigators can enter your home or office, take pictures and seize items without informing you, for an indefinite period of time, that a warrant was issued. **(SECTION 213)**
- 2 COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT BOOKS YOU READ, WHAT YOU STUDY, YOUR PURCHASES, YOUR MEDICAL HISTORY AND YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES.** The USA PATRIOT Act gives law enforcement broad access to any types of records – educational, medical, financial, sales, library, etc. – without probable cause of a crime. It also prohibits the holders of this information, like librarians, from disclosing that they have produced such records, under threat of imprisonment. The court orders are issued by a secret intelligence court in Washington and judges have little power to deny applications. **(SECTION 215)**
- 3 LABEL YOU A "TERRORIST" IF YOU BELONG TO AN ACTIVIST GROUP.** The USA PATRIOT Act broadly expands the legal definition of domestic terrorism. Under the new definition, overzealous prosecutors and investigators could use more invasive investigative tools against protesters engaged in certain types of civil disobedience. **(SECTIONS 411 AND 802)**
- 4 MONITOR YOUR E-MAILS AND WATCH WHAT INTERNET SITES YOU VISIT.** The USA PATRIOT Act permits the government to monitor Internet traffic and e-mail communications on any Internet service provider by obtaining with a court order but without probable cause detailed "routing" information like a Web address. While this provision is supposedly aimed at criminals, it is far too broad because e-mails and Internet traffic information of innocent individuals cannot be separated from the activity of targeted individuals. **(SECTION 216)**
- 5 TAKE AWAY YOUR PROPERTY WITHOUT A HEARING.** The USA PATRIOT Act allows the government to seize the assets of individuals or organizations without prior notice or hearing if the government says that they have engaged in, or are planning, an act of "domestic terrorism." Under this law, the government could effectively bankrupt an organization with which it disagrees. **(SECTION 806)**
- 6 SPY ON INNOCENT AMERICANS.** The USA PATRIOT Act permits a vast array of information gathered on U.S. citizens to be shared with the CIA (and other non-law enforcement officials) without proper judicial oversight or other safeguards. This law effectively puts the CIA back in the business of spying on Americans. **(SECTIONS 204 AND 901)**
- 7 PUT IMMIGRANTS IN JAIL INDEFINITELY.** The USA PATRIOT Act permits indefinite incarceration of immigrants and other non-citizens without the government having to show that they are, in fact, terrorists. **(SECTION 412)**
- 8 WIRETAP YOU UNDER A WARRANT FROM A SECRET COURT THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE YOUR NAME ON IT.** The USA PATRIOT Act (as amended) changes the nature of warrants for wiretaps by requiring judges on a secret court to approve a wiretap without knowing who is to be tapped or where it is to be placed. **(SECTION 206)**

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