



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Files PATRIOT Act Conference Report

Measure That Tears Down “The Wall” to be Considered Next Week

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today filed the PATRIOT Act conference report. The House and Senate will consider this agreement next week. A full section by section summary of the conference report is available at <http://judiciary.house.gov/media/pdfs/patmgrsstate12805.pdf>.

Chairman Sensenbrenner said, “This PATRIOT Act agreement helps ensure that our intelligence and law enforcement officers will have the tools necessary to protect the American people and win the war on terror. By invaluablely assisting in the detection, disruption, and dismantling of terrorist cells before they strike, the PATRIOT Act provides protection from terrorists determined to murder innocent Americans. Nearly all of these authorities are made permanent by this legislation.”

“Most notably, this conference report permanently tears down ‘the wall’ that prior to 9/11 prohibited the sharing of information between the law enforcement and intelligence communities and hindered their ability to ‘connect the dots.’ We must permanently eliminate ‘the wall’ to win the war on terror – and this agreement does that. This agreement also ensures our tools to fight the next Mohammed Atta intent on killing thousands of Americans are at least as tough as those to fight drug dealers and organized crime.”

“Though robust and aggressive oversight by Congress, the Justice Department’s independent Inspector General, and others have found no abuses of PATRIOT Act authorities, this conference report makes important modifications to prevent any future abuses by enhancing congressional and judicial oversight. This legislation is more protective of civil liberties concerns than current law in over a dozen areas, including requiring additional reporting requirements on how many persons are the subject of national security letters (NSLs).”

Some Conference Report Highlights:

- Permanently tears down “the wall” that had prevented information sharing between

- law enforcement and the intelligence community (from both House and Senate bills)
- Makes permanent 14 of the 16 expiring PATRIOT Act provisions (from both House and Senate bills)
- Places a 4-year sunset on Sections 206 and 215 of PATRIOT Act and the “lone wolf” terrorist provision (from Senate bill)
- Prohibits narco-terrorism (from House bill)
- Fights crime and terrorism at America’s seaports (from House bill)
- Combats terrorism financing (from House bill)
- Expands and make permanent the law prohibiting material support to terrorists (from House bill)
- Enhances penalties for attacks against railroad and mass transit (from House bill)
- Narrows definition of terrorism (from House bill)
- Makes certain air piracy crimes subject to the death penalty (similar to House bill)
- Establishes a judicial review process for Section 215 that authorizes the judge to set aside, modify, or affirm a 215 order that has been challenged (compromise between House and Senate)
- Requires adoption of minimization procedures governing the retention and dissemination of tangible items obtained under section 215 (from Senate Intelligence Committee bill)
- Creates National Security Division as requested by the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Authorizes lifetime judicial supervision of terrorists (from House bill)
- Extends the duration of FISA surveillance of non-U.S. persons to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles (from both House and Senate bills)
- Contains comprehensive reforms on the use of NSLs, including judicial review, mechanisms for disclosure, and reporting to Congress on the frequency of their use (compromise between House and Senate)
- Contains comprehensive measure to address the national methamphetamine abuse epidemic (similar to House and Senate legislation)

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