



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

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News Advisory

For immediate release
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Cannon Subcommittee Highlights Privacy Issues at Hearing, Markup Wednesday

- What:** Oversight Hearing entitled, “Privacy in the Hands of the Government: The Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security and the Privacy Officer for the Department of Justice.” Immediately following: Markup of H.R. 2840, the “Federal Agency Protection of Privacy Act”
- Who:** Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law - Rep. Chris Cannon (R-Utah), Chairman
- When:** 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, 2006
- Where:** 2141 Rayburn Building

The Privacy Act of 1974 regulates how federal agencies may use personal information they collect from individuals. These agencies are generally prohibited from disclosing personally identifiable information to other federal or state agencies or to any other person subject to certain specified exceptions. A recent Government Accountability Office study found that federal agencies’ practices for handling personal information was “uneven” with respect to their compliance with certain privacy principles.

THIS HEARING WILL EXAMINE...

- What are the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice privacy officers’ principal responsibilities and what are some of the greatest challenges that these privacy officers encounter?
- Do the statutes that created the DHS and DOJ privacy officer positions provide sufficient guidance and direction?
- To what extent do these privacy officers coordinate with privacy officers in other agencies? Are there shared problems/solutions?

WITNESSES: Ms. Maureen Cooney, Acting Chief Privacy Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Ms. Jane Horvath, Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, U.S. Department of Justice; Professor Sally Katzen, George Mason University Law School; Ms. Linda D. Koontz, Director, Information Management Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

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