

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2008

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we write to you today because securing our nation and protecting Americans from terrorist attacks is our greatest responsibility in Congress. Therefore, we urge you to cancel the district work period and call the U.S. House of Representatives back into session next week so that we can complete work on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).


Yesterday, we voted against adjourning for the President's Day recess in order to allow this to happen. We also voted to allow House, Senate and White House negotiators the 21-day extension that they requested to negotiate a final bill. We must continue to work to develop effective foreign surveillance legislation instead of leaving on recess.

Last November, the House passed a FISA bill, which we voted for, that provided our intelligence community with the authority they need. It would allow them to spy on foreign terrorists, while continuing to protect American citizens from unwarranted wiretapping. The Senate completely revised that bill and sent it back to the House this week. Clearly there is a lot of negotiating needed in order to reconcile them and develop a final bill. We strongly encourage you to consider bringing the House back into session in order to negotiate this important law.

Sincerely,



Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
Member of Congress