- 1 ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY
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- 3 HJU348000
- 4 MARKUP OF H.RES. 819, DIRECTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
- 5 UNITED STATES TO TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
- 6 NOT LATER THAN 14 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ADOPTION OF
- 7 THIS RESOLUTION, ANY DOCUMENTS AND LEGAL MEMORANDA IN THE
- 8 ATTORNEY GENERAL'S POSSESSION RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF
- 9 TARGETED KILLING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND TARGETS
- 10 ABROAD
- 11 Thursday, December 13, 2012
- 12 House of Representatives
- 13 Committee on the Judiciary
- 14 Washington, D.C.

- The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:10 a.m., in
- Room 2141, Rayburn Office Building, Hon. Lamar Smith

- 17 [chairman of the committee] presiding.
- 18 Present: Representatives Smith, Sensenbrenner, Coble,
- 19 Goodlatte, Lungren, Chabot, Issa, Forbes, Franks, Poe,
- 20 Marino, Gowdy, Adams, Amodei, Conyers, Nadler, Scott, Watt,
- 21 Lofgren, Jackson Lee, Quigley, Chu, and Polis.
- 22 Staff present: Richard Hertling, Majority Staff
- 23 Director and Chief Counsel; Travis Norton, Majority General
- 24 Counsel and Parliamentarian; Holt Lackey, Chief Majority
- Oversight Counsel; Kayla Munro, Majority Clerk; Perry
- 26 Apelbaum, Minority Staff Director; Aaron Hiller, Chief
- 27 Democratic Oversight Counsel; and Danielle Brown, Minority
- 28 Parliamentarian.

30 Chairman Smith. The Judiciary Committee will come to

- 31 order.
- 32 Without objection, the chair is authorized to declare
- 33 recesses of the committee at any time.
- 34 Before we take up the legislation that has been noticed,
- 35 I have a couple of remarks to make about a former chairman
- 36 who recently passed away. And so I would like to recognize
- 37 myself for comments about former chairman Jack Brooks, and
- 38 then I will recognize the ranking member as well.
- 39 Last week, the country lost a true public servant and
- 40 one of the longest-serving members of the House. A former
- 41 chairman of this committee, Jack spent 42 years in Congress
- 42 representing southeast Texas and working as a strong
- 43 advocate for civil rights reform. He served as chairman
- 44 from 1989 to 1995.
- Jack was also chairman of the House Government
- 46 Operations Committee, where he grilled Federal officers that
- 47 wasted taxpayer dollars and operated inefficiently. His
- 48 Inspector General Act established the Offices of Inspector
- 49 General in Federal agencies to serve as the first line of
- 50 defense against waste, fraud, and abuse.

As a member of the Texas congressional delegation, he

- 52 was a close friend of House Speaker Sam Rayburn and Senate
- 53 Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson. He was also in the
- 54 Dallas motorcade in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy was
- 55 assassinated.
- Jack was first elected to the House in 1952 and
- 57 reelected by his constituents 20 more times. Records show
- 58 that there were nearly 14,000 roll calls votes during his
- 59 tenure. His longevity in office was matched only by his
- 60 vibrant personality. Jack Brooks was known to chew on his
- 61 trademark cigar, even from behind this dais.
- 62 Jack Brooks was a tireless public servant, and he will
- 63 be missed. I am looking at his -- where is his portrait?
- 64 It is behind me on the left-hand side is a portrait of Jack
- 65 Brooks.
- 66 The gentleman from Michigan, the ranking member of the
- 67 Judiciary Committee, Mr. Conyers, is recognized for his
- 68 comments.
- 69 Mr. Conyers. Thank you, Chairman Smith, and members of
- 70 Judiciary. I think it is quite appropriate that we remember
- 71 the former chairman of this committee, Jack Brooks of Texas.

72 I remember him as the third chairman of the Judiciary

- 73 Committee since I have been on it. Preceding Chairman
- 74 Brooks was Peter Rodino of New Jersey, and preceding
- 75 Chairman Rodino was Manny Seller of New York. And then
- 76 after Chairman Jack Brooks came Henry Hyde, and then came
- 77 Jim Sensenbrenner, and then came myself, and presently we
- 78 have Chairman Lamar Smith. And in the next Congress, we
- 79 will have Chairman-elect Robert Goodlatte.
- 80 And so I remember this string of leaders past, present,
- 81 and future, in a special way because this is the committee
- 82 that I asked to be assigned to when I first came to
- 83 Congress. And through then Speaker John McCormack, that was
- 84 able to occur.
- 85 I saw firsthand the constitutional questions, the civil
- 86 rights laws, and many other important matters, including
- 87 some impeachment resolutions. And I wanted to fondly
- 88 remember Jack Brooks. He actually led an effort to hold
- 89 President Nixon accountable for what he thought were
- 90 impeachable offenses. And that impeachment hearing was
- 91 averted by President Nixon resigning and leaving his office
- 92 in Washington, D.C.

93 As chairman of the committee from 1989 through 1995,

- 94 Chairman Brooks oversaw the passage of the Americans with
- 95 Disabilities Act, Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement
- 96 Act, and the modernization of the Civil Rights Act. I am
- 97 proud to have served with him and those of you who were
- 98 around at that time to do the same.
- 99 The Judiciary Committee and the Nation benefitted
- 100 greatly from his leadership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 101 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Conyers. Pursuant to
- 102 notice, I now call up H. Res. 819 for purposes of mark up.
- 103 And the clerk will report the resolution.
- 104 Ms. Munro. H. Res. 819, directing the Attorney General
- 105 of the United States to transmit to the House of
- 106 Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of --
- 107 Chairman Smith. Without objection, the resolution is
- 108 considered as read.
- 109 [The information follows:]

111 Chairman Smith. And I will recognize myself for an

- 112 opening statement, and then the ranking member.
- 113 The sole item on today's agenda is H. Res. 819, which
- 114 was introduced by Representative Kucinich on November 28th,
- 115 and referred to the Judiciary Committee.
- 116 The resolution requires the Attorney General to turn
- 117 over any documents and legal memoranda in his possession
- 118 related to the practice of targeted killing of United States
- 119 citizens and targets abroad. It is a response to the
- 120 killing of a leading Al-Qaeda member and his son in Yemen.
- 121 Under the rules of the House, unless this committee acts
- 122 within 14 legislative days, the resolution would become
- 123 privileged. So I urge the committee to report the
- 124 resolution unfavorably.
- 125 A resolution of inquiry is a rare procedure. It would
- 126 be appropriate in such a sensitive matter if more ordinary
- 127 paths of oversight had been blocked. With respect to its
- 128 targeted killing program, the Administration has not yet
- 129 demonstrated the sort of obstruction that would warrant this
- 130 extraordinary measure.
- 131 Administration officials involved in covert actions are

132 already required to give the House and Senate Intelligence

- 133 Committees requested material related to those actions.
- 134 There is no evidence that that the Administration has failed
- 135 in this responsibility to disclose details of the targeted
- 136 killing program.
- 137 Both Intelligence Committees have conducted extensive
- 138 oversight on every aspect of the program. This includes its
- 139 legality, effectiveness, precision, foreign policy
- 140 implications, and the care that is taken to minimize
- 141 noncombatant casualties.
- 142 Oversight of the Administration's drone program has also
- 143 been conducted by members of this committee. Ranking Member
- 144 Conyers along with Representatives Nadler and Scott have
- 145 sent letters seeking more information about the drone
- 146 program, and have received responsive documents. These
- 147 members of this committee sent their latest correspondence
- 148 just last week, and I trust that they intend to continue
- 149 their dialogue with the Justice Department, and will report
- 150 back their findings.
- 151 In a speech at Northwestern Law School, Attorney General
- 152 Holder described the circumstances in which he believes that

153 targeting of senior leaders of Al-Qaeda abroad is lawful,

- 154 even if the terrorists in question happen to be American
- 155 citizens.
- The Attorney General argued that "Such a strike is
- 157 appropriate only if 3 conditions are met. These are, first,
- 158 the United States government has determined after a thorough
- 159 and careful review that the individual poses an imminent
- 160 threat of violent attack against the United States; second,
- 161 capture is not feasible; and third, the operation would be
- 162 conducted in a manner consistent with applicable law of war
- 163 principles."
- Some may disagree with the Attorney General's
- 165 conclusions that continuing oversight of the program is
- 166 necessary. But the Administration has made at least some
- 167 effort to disclose the program's existence, its legal
- 168 rationale, and the standards and protections the
- 169 Administration applies to the program.
- 170 Congress' traditional oversight efforts are not yet at
- 171 the sort of impasse that would justify a rare procedure,
- 172 like a resolution of inquiry. So I feel we should report
- this measure unfavorably.

174 At the same time, all of us who know Congress Kucinich 175 recognize that his views are sincerely held, and we 176 appreciate the public service he has given to our country. 177 That concludes my opening statement. And the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for his. 178 179 Mr. Conyers. Thank you, Chairman Smith, and I commend 180 you for your comments. And I want to begin by indicating 181 that I think this is an incredibly important subject, and I am not sure if it is going to be resolved this morning or 182 183 not. I would like to work with you and other members of the 184 committee to determine just what we might want to consider 185 doing after today's action. I, too, have a great respect for our outgoing member 186 187 from Cleveland, Ohio, and I feel very strongly about this subject. Unmanned aerial vehicles raises a very serious 188 concern for me because as a follower of Martin Luther King, 189 190 Jr., I believe that justice and peace requires that we try to live up to those goals to the maximum extent possible. 191 192 I do not know what the Intelligence Committee has done with regard to this subject matter because most of their 193

procedures are not public. But I would like to try to get

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- 195 an idea about it.
- 196 This resolution directs the Administration to transmit
- 197 to the House of Representatives any documents and legal
- 198 memoranda in the Attorney General's possession related to
- 199 the practice of targeted killing of United States citizens
- 200 and targets abroad.
- 201 Now, the Obama Administration was not the first to use
- 202 unmanned aerial vehicles or drones in its hunt for suspected
- 203 terrorists. But it has over the past 4 years apparently
- 204 expanded the program dramatically. And I am deeply
- 205 concerned by reports that American citizens have been
- 206 targeted in some of these operations. Signature strikes
- 207 where drone target suspicious behavior rather than specific
- 208 individuals is a great concern of mine.
- I am concerned that some of these individuals have been
- 210 killed far from an active battlefield, and I am concerned
- 211 that the legal rationale for this program remains, for the
- 212 most part, secret.
- 213 Because of these concerns, the ranking member of the
- 214 Constitution Subcommittee, Jerrold Nadler of New York, the
- 215 ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Bobby Scott of

216 Virginia, and myself have together written Attorney Holder

- 217 on 3 separate occasions requesting the legal and factual
- 218 justification for these programs.
- 219 We have also urged the Attorney General to make at least
- 220 some portion of this analysis available to the public. And
- 221 we have, I think, made limited progress. The Attorney
- 222 General and other senior Administration officials seem to
- 223 have begun to publicly discuss their rationale for targeted
- 224 strikes. The Department of Justice has also provided some
- 225 legal support or justification of this activity.
- 226 So what we are doing today is something that the author
- 227 of this resolution has not consulted, to my knowledge, with
- 228 anybody on this committee about, including myself. And I
- 229 think that this is an inappropriate way to begin the
- 230 examination of questions of this magnitude.
- 231 And I wanted to share these opening views with my
- 232 colleagues, and I thank the chairman for his time.
- 233 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Conyers. Are there
- other members who wish to be heard?
- The gentleman from California, Mr. Issa, is recognized.
- 236 Mr. Issa. Mr. Chairman, I am going to support the

237 decision not to support this resolution. But I would like 238 to speak on the principle that Mr. Kucinich is rightfully so 239 articulating, one that I believe this committee has 240 exclusive jurisdiction in and needs to bring up in the next 241 Congress. 242 The rights, the civil rights, of a U.S. person is 243 something that has long been special, and we can all 244 understand that this example would be a poor example to 245 bring up to make a decision. This was a person most of us 246 believe essentially renounced his citizenship, left the 247 country, and advocated violence, helped in an orchestrated 248 way. But let us understand that unless there are reiterations 249 250 by this committee and by Congress and by any Administration, 251 that a U.S. person does have special rights. As the ranking 252 member said, Martin Luther King said things people did not 253 like in this country. He did not say things that were 254 illegal, and yet he was locked at times for it. Had he left 255 the country, would he have been a legal target for his advocacy, particularly if some said it led to violence? I 256

believe that that special care has to be part of our system,

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that the targeting of a U.S. person in or out of the United

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259 States has to live up the most stringent rules. 260 I disagree with one point that was implied, and that is 261 that the Attorney General has cooperated. This Attorney General has been held in contempt by the House of 262 263 Representatives on a bipartisan basis because he has 264 consistently been aloof and unwilling to participate or 265 supply information reasonably believed to be in Congress' rightful jurisdiction. 266 267 But that does not change the fact that the decision 268 about U.S. persons, the laws related to U.S. persons, go 269 beyond one example for Mr. Kucinich wants underlying information. And it goes to the real question of, will this 270 271 committee in the next Congress look at the civil rights 272 broadly of American persons outside the United States and 273 reiterate that, in fact, what you cannot be assassinated for 274 in the U.S., you should not be, you know, assassinated outside the U.S.. And what you can be tried for in the U.S. 275 276 does not mean that you will be convicted or executed. And I

think that is an important principle because people will say

things that we do not like in the U.S., and we are used to

279 that. They will say things we do not like outside the U.S.,

- 280 even denouncing our country. And I believe they will still
- 281 have that right.
- 282 If they promote violence and attacks against Americans
- 283 in such a way as to be combatants on the battlefield, then
- 284 there need to be remedies. And whether those remedies are
- 285 with a man and a trigger in an aircraft or a drone to me is
- 286 not the real question. And I hope that this committee will
- 287 go to its core of civil rights in the next Congress, not on
- 288 this example, but on the examples that ultimately we have
- 289 stood for as the committee of civil rights, as noted
- 290 earlier, since Chairman Brooks and well before.
- 291 And I thank the chairman for his indulgence in this
- 292 case, and I support the chairman's position. And I would
- 293 yield back.
- 294 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Issa. Are there other
- 295 members? The gentleman from New York, Mr. Nadler, is
- 296 recognized.
- 297 Mr. Nadler. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we consider
- 298 an issue of vital importance to our Nation, to the rule of
- 299 law, and to our standing in the community of nations.

300 It has been reported that since 2004, the Central 301 Intelligence Agency has conducted 320 drone strikes in 302 Pakistan, killing at least 2,560 people, including at least 303 139 civilians. Another 55 strikes have taken place in 304 Yemen. These strikes have been aimed either at specific 305 individuals -- so-called personality strikes -- or at sites 306 that show evidence of terrorist activity referred to as 307 signature strikes. 308 While there have been some steps taken by the 309 Administration to provide information to the public about 310 the legal and procedural justification for personality 311 strikes, with that information coming directly from highranking Administration officials, including Attorney General 312 313 Holder and President Obama's top antiterrorism advisor, John 314 Brennan. The Administration has yet to confirm the use of 315 signature strikes and has resisted our ongoing efforts to 316 obtain information, even on a classified basis, regarding 317 the legal or factual principles governing this broader use 318 of lethal force. This has been frustrating to say the 319 least. 320 Along with the distinguished ranking member of the full

committee, Mr. Conyers, and the distinguished ranking member 321 322 of the Subcommittee on Crime, Mr. Scott, I have pushed the 323 Administration to make more information publicly available 324 and to provide this committee with information and briefings 325 essential to enable us to fulfill our oversight obligations 326 and to ensure meaningful review of executive branch actions. 327 We have written to the Attorney General on several occasions, and we have been in discussions with the Justice 328 329 Department and the Administration for more than a year in an effort to obtain this information. We have received some of 330 331 the legal background the Administration has relied on, but the process has been painfully slow, and I believe the 332 333 response that we have received to date has been inadequate. 334 I, therefore, want to commend our colleague from Ohio for his efforts to obtain information to which Congress is 335 336 entitled. While this resolution has its flaws, it has 337 occasioned the first real discussion that the Judiciary 338 Committee has had on the topic of drone strikes. 339 The power to wage war and to order the killing of any 340 person, much less an American citizen, is perhaps the most 341 awesome power the President has. The framers of our

342 Constitution rightly placed stringent limits on the 343 authority of any one individual to take the Nation down that 344 road. 345 It is the Congress that must take responsibility for declaring and funding any and all wars and for ensuring 346 347 adequate oversight of the President exercises the authority 348 to wage war that he has been granted. 349 The Administration's case for its legal authority to execute the drone program relies largely on the authority 350 351 granted by the Congress in the Authorization for the Use of 352 Military Force, the AUMF, of September 18th, 2001. This 353 committee as the guardian of the Constitution and the Congress has an obligation to look very closely at any 354 355 assertion of executive power, especially when it comes to the power to wage war. 356 357 It is highly regrettable that the committee has not done 358 so, failing entirely to hold even a single hearing to 359 explore this critically important topic. And I hope that in the next Congress, we will take a more active and bipartisan 360 role in examining lethal targeting and the use of drones, 361

the extent to which that use is lawful under the AUMF or

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363 under other legal authority, and whether Congress should act

- 364 in some way on this subject.
- 365 So I want to commend the gentleman from Ohio for his
- 366 effort, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to
- 367 bring greater clarity and legal accountability to this
- 368 program in the future.
- 369 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.
- 370 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Nadler. The gentleman
- 371 from Texas, Mr. Poe, is recognized.
- 372 Mr. Poe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank
- 373 you for your chairmanship of this committee. Appreciate
- 374 your work on every issue.
- 375 I will support the chairman's position on this
- 376 resolution because I think procedurally this is not the way
- 377 to go. But I would like to echo some of the comments
- 378 already been made.
- 379 My concern is not why drones are used or when they are
- 380 used, but the legal authority for the use of drones, whether
- 381 it is against American citizens or signature strikes. And I
- 382 would hope in the future the committee gets this issue, the
- 383 legal authority for the use of strikes by drones overseas,

384 we get that answer. And we can deal with the rest of the

- 385 problems or the issues regarding overseas once we have
- 386 concrete legal authority, if any, for the use of drones in
- 387 this particular situation that is mentioned in Mr.
- 388 Kucinich's resolution.
- 389 So I look forward to dealing with that specific issue of
- 390 legal authority. And I will yield back my time.
- 391 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Poe. The gentleman from
- 392 Virginia, Mr. Scott, seeks recognition?
- 393 Mr. Scott. Yes, please.
- 394 Chairman Smith. The gentleman is recognized for 5
- 395 minutes.
- 396 Mr. Scott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
- 397 obviously your rights when we are at war are no going to be
- 398 the same as your rights when we are not at war. And your
- 399 rights overseas are not going to be the same as your rights
- 400 when you are in the country. But when you have a process
- 401 that puts American citizens on a kill list, I think it is
- 402 important to have clarity as to how you get on the list and
- 403 how you ascertain the standards apparently to get on the
- 404 list you have to be a targeted person, a senior member of

405 Al-Qaeda operative, or allied operative, the person presents 406 an imminent threat to the United States, person cannot be 407 captured in the country in which a person is located that 408 either consented to the strikes or has indicated its 409 unwillingness to take steps necessary to ending the threat 410 to the United States. 411 Those seem to be reasonable standard, but there is no process to make sure you have got the information right. 412 413 You cannot question the accuracy. You cannot cross examine 414 the witnesses. Once somebody has, by whatever standard, 415 whatever process, comes to those conclusions, there is no 416 right of appeal, and you are a target. We need clarity as the gentleman from Texas pointed out on the legal authority 417 418 to do this, but also clarity on the process and the whatever 419 checks and balances there may be. 420 This information is extremely important. The resolution 421 asks for that information. But as other have indicated, we 422 are in the process of going back and forth getting the 423 information. Actually the information that we are 424 requesting is actually broader than what is in the

resolution. The resolution just talks about targeted -- we

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426 are looking for both the targeted and the signature strikes

- 427 where an individual is not named.
- 428 We are in the process of getting this information. I
- 429 think the resolution at this point is premature, but we need
- 430 to continue, as others have indicated, making sure we get to
- 431 the bottom of it.
- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.
- 433 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Mr. Scott. Are there are
- 434 other members who wish to be heard? The gentlewoman from
- 435 Texas, Ms. Jackson Lee.
- 436 Ms. Jackson Lee. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
- 437 Before I start my remarks, Mr. Chairman, if I might for the
- 438 record, first of all thank you for your service, and
- 439 certainly we have had some enormous successes during the
- 440 tenure of both you and Mr. Conyers. And I thank you so very
- 441 much for the service and look forward to working with you
- 442 going forward.
- 443 Chairman Smith. Thank you.
- Ms. Jackson Lee. And I also want to add my remarks to
- 445 the late Jack Brooks. I was able to attend his funeral in
- 446 Beaumont this past weekend, and many know that he remained a

447 steadfast friend of this committee, chairperson of this 448 committee, chairman of this committee. And everybody knows 449 how tough Jack Brooks was, but he loved his country, and he 450 loved the Constitution. And I wanted to acknowledge him in his passing and to say to Charlotte and his family we offer 451 452 them our deepest sympathy. 453 Possibly in the time that Jack Brooks was the chairperson here, he might have convened over a similar 454 455 discussion had it been in his time. 456 I want to raise the issue, and I want to acknowledge the 457 work of Ranking Member Conyers, Nadler, and Scott, who over 458 the years have sent letters on this very question. And I am disappointed that it has been such a long period of time 459 460 that we have yet not been able to get answers on the utilization of drones. 461 462 And so as this resolution comes forward, its underlying 463 premise has merit, which is to seek documents and legal 464 memoranda to answer the question on the practice of

targeting allegedly and killing United States citizens, and

I ask unanimous consent to put into the record an

the collateral damage of drones as well.

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468	article from the Atlantic Council, "Drone Strike on
469	Democracy." I ask unanimous consent
470	Chairman Smith. Without objection.
471	[The information follows:]
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473	Ms. Jackson Lee. And take just a brief comment from
474	this article, which speaks to the idea of the percentage of
475	noncombatants killed. But according to at least one major
476	study, has bred a climate of fear and resentment among
477	civilian populations in those societies that we really would
478	want to be an ally, short of the horrific person who engages
479	in terrorism.
480	When you think of an American citizen abroad, you think
481	of the imam in Yemen and his 16-year-old son. And we do not
482	want to be associated with the likes of that individual.
483	But I believe this committee has a responsibility, and I am
484	glad that we have opened this debate to project into the
485	future a hearing about the utilization of drones.
486	When you are in your district, you hear local police
487	departments being excited about the utilization of drones.
488	My concern is what is the level of the invasion of privacy
489	of American citizens both here and abroad? How is this tool,
490	albeit a scientific genius, often showed off or often shown
491	in some of our best spy movies, how can we ensure that we
492	are protecting the constitutional rights of privacy, the
493	Fourth Amendment, the protection against unreasonable

searches and seizures if it can be interpreted as such? And

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495 I believe those questions should be answered. This is sort 496 of the expanded realm and parameters of what this resolution 497 is attempting to do. 498 So, members, as we move forward, I would hope that we 499 would consider this as a very serious issue as we are 500 considering the new advances in technology as it relates to 501 the privacy of the American citizen. We are going to have to address it. We look forward and ask that the 502 503 Administration address it. 504 We know that drones can provide a safety net for the men 505 and women of the United States military in harm's way. I am 506 glad for that. I celebrate that. But at the same time, 507 where there is goodness, we have to address the question of how much damage it also brings about. That is a fair 508 509 question for this committee, a fair question for a number of 510 committees of jurisdiction. But I hold to the fact that 511 this committee, which is the holder and protector of the 512 Constitution must answer this question. And the members of 513 this Congress must in debate and discourse answer this

question as well in the global discourse and debate on the

- floor of the House or the floor of the Senate.
- 516 So I add my support for the concept of what has to be
- 517 done going forward, and it is most helpful that this
- 518 resolution has opened up a vital and important debate, Mr.
- 519 Chairman, as I yield, that coddles the Constitution. And
- 520 that is the job of the House Judiciary Committee on behalf
- 521 of the American people.
- 522 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.
- 523 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Ms. Jackson Lee. The
- 524 gentlewoman from California, Ms. Chu, is recognized.
- 525 Ms. Chu. Well, I have many unanswered questions about
- 526 how the U.S. is using drones abroad. I believe that members
- 527 of Congress, and especially the Judiciary Committee, have a
- 528 critical oversight responsibility to balance the national
- 529 security of our Nation with respect for the rule of law.
- For example, it has been reported that after one
- 531 significant strike, another follows immediately, resulting
- 532 in civilian rescuers being injured and killed. These drone
- 533 attacks are leaving people afraid to go to group gatherings,
- 134 like weddings.
- 535 Since 2004, the CIA has conducted 320 drone strikes in

536 Pakistan alone. It has resulted in the deaths of 2,560

- 537 people. But what is very worrisome is the 139 civilians.
- 538 There needs to be greater oversight in the use of
- 539 drones. This resolution raises this issue, and I hope that
- 540 this committee will look into this and other issues
- 541 pertaining to it in the next Congress. Thank you.
- 542 Chairman Smith. Thank you, Ms. Chu.
- 543 I am going to recognize myself for purposes of offering
- 544 a motion. And I now move that the resolution be reported
- 545 adversely to the House.
- 546 The question is on the motion. Those in favor say aye?
- 547 Opposed, no?
- 548 In the opinion of the chair, the resolution is reported
- 549 adversely, and the ayes have it.
- There being no further business, we stand adjourned.
- 551 Let me say to members that there is a good possibility
- 552 we will have a markup of one bill next week. And that will
- 553 conclude our business for the year.
- 554 It is likely to be a bill by the gentleman from Texas,
- 555 Mr. Poe.
- 556 [Whereupon, at 10:43 a.m. the committee was adjourned.]