

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns with the National Security Agency's (NSA) bulk data collection program and H.R. 2048, the *USA FREEDOM Act*. I appreciate having the opportunity to learn about your views on issues of importance to Northwest Florida and our Nation.

All three branches of government are involved in reviewing and authorizing NSA's intelligence collection programs. As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), I work with my colleagues to provide regular and strict oversight of federal agencies in the Intelligence Community (IC), including the NSA.

While the NSA is equipped with vital tools to ensure our national security, there have been concerns that metadata collection programs are in violation of our Fourth Amendment rights. In response, H.R.2048, *the Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ending Eavesdropping, Dragnet-collection, and Online Monitoring Act of 2015*, also known as the *USA FREEDOM Act*, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 28, 2015, by Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and jointly referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, the HPSCI, and the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.2048, which built on similar legislation passed by the House last Congress, would end the bulk collection of metadata—including email, phone, and business records—and strengthen the specific selection terms used to collect information needed for national security without allowing for blanket targeting of geographic areas. In addition, the bill addresses concerns regarding civil liberties protections by requiring that an independent panel of five experts is included in Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court deliberations on matters of privacy, civil liberties and communications technology, and it would also require declassification of all significant opinions of the FISA Court.

Congress has a responsibility to provide for both the common defense of our Nation, while at the same time protecting our Constitutional rights. I voted in favor of the *USA FREEDOM Act*, which passed the House on May 13, 2015, by a vote of 338-88. In the wake of the massive release of classified information, Americans called on lawmakers to fulfill the government's role to provide for the common defense of our citizens, while also respecting the personal liberties enshrined in our Constitution. The *USA FREEDOM Act* helps address those concerns.

We must ensure our Nation still has the critical tools it needs to allow our intelligence community to monitor overseas threats, while allowing the federal government the ability to effectively carry out its constitutional directives to provide for both the common defense of our Nation and protect our Fourth Amendment rights. Rest assured, I will continue to ensure that the activities of our IC agencies in gathering foreign intelligence do not infringe on the rights guaranteed to U.S. citizens in the Constitution.

Again, thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts on this issue. If you would like to receive further information on issues of importance to you and to Northwest Florida, please log on to my website at <http://www.house.gov/jeffmiller>. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress