

INFO PACK: Foreign Intelligence Security (FISA) Act Compiled by Beverly Bandler

Senate Bill 1927 is described as the bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes.

With its approval of SB1927 in August, Congress legitimized the Bush Administration's past (and future) illegal and indiscriminate eavesdropping on the communications of private American citizens and its abuse of FISA law, all in the name of keeping us safe from "the terrorists." These practices have been declared illegal in a recent court decision.

SB1927 gives the U.S. Attorney General unfettered decision-making power. The USAG and this Administration have not shown any concern or consideration of the Constitutional rights in their rabid pursuit of anyone they deem an "evildoer." More and more, that could easily be defined as you or me, ordinary citizens exercising their Constitutional rights to dissent, to travel, to gather, to talk. Scared? You should be. The following links provide more information about this critical issue.

"[O]ur **Fourth Amendment rights to privacy**

<http://harpers.org/subjects/Privacy> have been infringed by vastly expanded surveillance authorities under the USA Patriot Act, drafted by the administration and pushed through Congress in the weeks after 9/11. Most recently, the Justice Department's own inspector general found pervasive misuse of "national security letters," a form of administrative subpoena whose reach the Patriot Act dramatically expanded. The FBI used the letters to demand personal information on more than 143,000 occasions over a three-year period, used them in circumstances not authorized even by the Patriot Act, and systematically underreported that use." – David Cole: "The Constitution," *Harper's Magazine*, June 2007. <http://www.harpers.org/>. Cole is a professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

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NOTE: This is the article with the Vote information.

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