

November 6, 2017



Abuse Act and some drug crimes. The bill also contains no restriction on using Section 702 communications as evidence in civil and administrative proceedings. And it contains no limits on the use of Section 702 communications outside of the courtroom -- for instance, to initiate or further an investigation.

**Increase criminal penalties for unauthorized removal of classified information.** The bill would reclassify the misdemeanor of unauthorized removal of classified information as a felony offense, and it would increase the maximum penalty from one year to 10 years. This change is both unnecessary and incongruous when viewed in the context of other laws. The U.S. Code already contains several criminal provisions that carry 10-year sentences in cases where classified information is removed and disclosed to people unauthorized to receive it. Removal without disclosure is clearly a lesser offense, and it makes no sense to treat it with the same severity. Changing the offense to a felony would also remove a bargaining tool for the Department of Justice when attempting to obtain plea deals in leak cases.

The FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act would make Section 702 worse. We urge you to voice your opposition to this bill and instead, to support the meaningful reforms included in other legislative proposals.<sup>3</sup>

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org  
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Library Association  
Arab American Institute

Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Engine  
Fight for the Future  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
FreedomWorks  
Free Press Action Fund  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Government Accountability Project