

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of June 18, 2008, I erroneously voted to override the President's veto on H.R. 6124, (roll call No. 417), the Food, Conservation and Energy Act. I intended to vote "nay" and sustain the President's veto.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6304, the "FISA Amendments Act of 2008."

I first want to thank Majority Leader HOYER and other Members who worked very hard to arrive at a compromise with the Senate. I think this bill is an improvement over S. 1927, the "Protect America Act," and the Senate bill we considered earlier this year. For example, H.R. 6304 makes it crystal clear that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, is the exclusive means under which surveillance is conducted and states that any exceptions in the future must be specifically authorized.

However, I cannot support H.R. 6304 because of the issues of reverse targeting and retroactive immunity for telecommunications companies. The strong protections against reverse targeting contained in prior House measures, which I supported, are absent from this bill. Reverse targeting, which refers to spying on Americans by targeting those abroad with whom they are believed to be communicating, opens a loophole for the Federal Government to violate the privacy of American citizens.

Most significantly, the retroactive immunity provisions will block the American public's ability to hold the telecommunications companies accountable for participating in the Federal Government's domestic warrantless surveillance program. Courts will have no real power to review the administration's prior orders for surveillance activities. We may never learn the extent of the violations of Americans' privacy which may have occurred or companies which may have participated.

I ask my colleagues to stand up for our values and vote no on this flawed bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the record to reflect my intentions had I been present. Had I been present for rollcall No. 414, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 415, I would have voted

"aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 416, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 417, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 418, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 419, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 420, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 421, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 422, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 423, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 424, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 425, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 426, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 427, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 430, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 431, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 432, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 433, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 434, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 435, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 436, I would have voted "aye". Had I been present for rollcall No. 437, I would have voted "aye".

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF
TONI ANN SECREST**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise in heartfelt gratitude to Assistant Principal Toni Ann Secrest who is retiring after 38 passionate years of service to the students, faculty and parents of Mercy High School in Burlingame, California.

Ms. Secrest arrived at Mercy in 1970, just two years after I graduated. While I had the best teachers a student could ask for, Toni Ann Secrest is one more reason why I wish I was just a little younger. Her energetic approach to teaching, her love of all things historical and her captivating and entertaining storytelling ability are legendary.

Toni Ann's students, it is said, never graduate. She instills in them the love of critical thinking and intellectual examination that inspires them to continue along the path of lifelong learning. This didn't stop when she moved out of the classroom and into the counselor's chair. Seeing the mission of her new job as much more than advising on college and careers, Ms. Secrest offered real counsel. Students always left her office more inspired and infinitely more hopeful than they went in.

As Assistant Principal, Toni Ann Secrest was without peer. She brought Mercy High School into the information age by revamping the curriculum to replace typing classes with computer science. She brought the faculty and administration up-to-date also, even if it meant dragging them against their will to learn and embrace new technologies.

Toni Ann is adored by her former students. To a person, they remember her intellect, her

kindness and her style. Toni Ann dresses like she lives. She sets an example. As one student recalled, "Ms. Secrest always had it going on." To this day, she is the best-dressed person in any room.

Madam Speaker, like you, Toni Ann Secrest is a pioneer. She was a member of the first co-ed graduating class of the University of San Francisco, where she got her degree in History. She also has a master's in Counseling from USF and has earned her Secondary Teaching Credential for Life and a Pupil Personnel Credential for Life.

And what a life! Admired by all who work with her (especially me), appreciated by the thousands she has mentored, loved by her large extended family and appreciated by her community.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act.

Among the casualties of the "war on terror" has been the guarantee of civil liberties and right to privacy of American citizens upon which our nation was founded. Time and again, throughout his Presidency, George Bush has shown absolute indifference to the Constitution and the principles upon which it stands.

This disregard for the Constitution was never clearer than last summer when President Bush signed into law the Protect America Act, which I opposed then and continue to oppose to this day, a law that gave the President unprecedented authority to spy on Americans.

As Congress began to consider new legislation, I had hoped that we could reach a compromise that strikes the right balance between protecting the rights of individual Americans and protecting our nation's security. Like all of my colleagues in Congress, I believe that our nation must aggressively pursue terrorist targets in the United States and abroad. However, I know the United States is capable of doing so within a framework that respects the Constitution of the United States.

Many provisions within this bill are an improvement over the Protect America Act, especially the provision on exclusively, which affirms that the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) is the exclusive means to conduct electronic surveillance of Americans for the purpose of foreign intelligence collection.

However, I believe firmly that the bill before us today does not do enough to protect the privacy rights of individual Americans and therefore I cannot in good conscience vote for its passage. Here are some of the problems with the bill before us today:

H.R. 6304 contains an "exigent circumstances" loophole that permits the Administration to conduct surveillance on Americans without getting a warrant for up to seven days every time "intelligence important to the national security of the US may be lost or not timely acquired." The problem with language this open-ended is that an Administration, like the Bush Administration, can use this language as an invitation to repeatedly spy on

Americans without a court order and in each case claim that circumstances demanded it.

Secondly, while H.R. 6304 contains a general prohibition on "reverse" targeting, it lacks clear statutory directives about when the government should return to the FISA court and obtain a warrant. Reverse targeting refers to the possibility that the Government will try to subvert FISA by wiretapping someone overseas, when the real target is an American with whom that foreign person is communicating. As is the case with the exigent circumstances provision, this open-ended language leaves the law vulnerable to misuse by an Administration.

Lastly, the retroactive immunity language in Title II virtually ensures the dismissal of all cases pending against the telecommunications companies that facilitated warrantless wiretapping over the last seven years. This violates the fundamental American principle that people are entitled to their day in court, and that the courts, not Congress, should decide whether people were injured by the illegal acts of others. It is unacceptable for Congress to protect private companies from lawsuits filed by people the may have harmed through illegal actions.

Ultimately, I believe that the President has presented Congress with a false choice. Ever since September 11, the Bush Administration has put forward the idea that Congress must choose between the liberties we cherish and the security we demand. I disagree wholeheartedly with this premise. The Congress can and must take stronger steps to protect the civil liberties of every American, to do anything less is simply contrary to everything for which this country has stood.

I would like to close by reading a quote from Benjamin Franklin. Though delivered centuries ago, it remains salient to today's debate. He said "Those Who Sacrifice Liberty For Security Deserve Neither."

I urge my colleagues to consider Benjamin Franklin's views as they vote today.

HONORING DR. MARLIN B. CREASY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM MUNCIE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of Dr. Marlin B. Creasy.

Dr. Creasy has served as the superintendent of Muncie Community Schools since 1997, but he will long be remembered for a commitment to public education that goes back some 40 years. Ever a champion of the Muncie schools and community, Dr. Creasy was loved by students, parents, faculty, and staff alike.

Dr. Creasy spent countless evenings and weekends throughout his career attending school activities. It was this personal interaction and involvement that impacted students most and this was clearly Dr. Creasy's first love.

Next year, as students fill the halls of Muncie Community Schools, Dr. Creasy will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on. The lives of the students that Dr. Creasy touched

will lead them to experiences that will change the face of Muncie for years to come.

I'd like to thank Dr. Marlin B. Creasy for being a leader in the community and in the lives of the children for whom he opened the doors to a better education.

HONORING JUDGE EUGENE HYMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Judge Eugene Hyman and the California State Superior Court for Santa Clara County for receiving the 2008 United Nations Public Service Award today in New York City.

Established in 2003, the United Nations Public Service Award is regarded as the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. In an annual competition, the United Nations presents their U.N. Public Service Awards, rewarding creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to more effective and responsive public administrations in countries worldwide.

This year's ceremony is particularly special, not only for the innovative achievements of Judge Hyman, but because Judge Hyman is the first American to receive the United Nations Public Service Award. The project he helped initiate—the Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court—is being honored in the "Improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service" category.

Judge Eugene Hyman's extensive involvement in the local community shows that he is truly deserving of this honor. As a former police officer and trial lawyer, Judge Hyman was appointed to the Santa Clara County Municipal Court in 1990 and the Superior Court for Santa Clara County in 1997. In 1999, Judge Hyman created the Santa Clara County Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court.

Judge Hyman's Juvenile Violence Court was the very first of its kind in the United States. With Judge Hyman's dedication and innovation, the Juvenile Violence Court has had a dramatic impact on reducing the number of violent young offenders being re-arrested for violent crimes. This unique system is one that can be easily implemented across the country because all that is required is knowledge of the program and a commitment to follow-through.

I am proud to have this wonderful program and person in my community. I offer my congratulations to Judge Hyman and the Santa Clara County Superior Court for this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CROCKETT MOORE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent and an

extremely talented woman committed to community service at all levels. This month Barbara Crockett Moore will complete her tenure as International Grand Basileus of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She has served in this capacity since 2002, and has proven to be an extraordinary and effective leader.

As the Zeta's International Grand Basileus, Mrs. Moore leads a sorority made up of 100,000 minority and African-American women in America and abroad. She has led the Zetas in national community outreach services, public policy, governmental affairs, and oversees overall administrative function, including its fiscal management. She has focused her leadership on enhancing the Zeta's commitment to community service and all humanity. Her crowning achievement is the implementation of the international initiative known as Z-HOPE: Zetas Helping Other People to Excel. The program has had positive impacts on more than a million people in America and abroad. Z-HOPE has commissioned more than 44 water wells in Ghana, and West Africa and has begun construction on a health center at the Afua Kobi Ampen Girls School in Ghana.

Mrs. Moore is also responsible for launching the Zeta's new program initiative called ZOL, which seeks to empower women in all aspects of their lives. The program encourages women taking charge of their health and inspires women to take on leadership roles in the sorority and their communities. She has made it a priority to grow the sorority's National Education Foundation by one million dollars, and has formed the Zeta Congressional Institute, which will encourage women to seek public office and provide internships for young women in the Washington, DC area at the Washington Institute. Under Mrs. Moore's leadership, the Zeta's completed a two million dollar renovation to the national headquarters in Washington creating state-of-the-art facilities.

Mrs. Moore's success in the Zeta's leadership stems from her previous work in various capacities in the sorority. She has served as Chair of the National Executive Board, First Anti-Basileus, Chair of the National Membership Committee and as the FIPSC Project Director, where she managed the first federally funded grant awarded to the sorority. Prior to becoming Grand Basileus, she was Chair of the National Capital Campaign that raised money for the headquarters renovations. She has also served as Boule Chief of Protocol, Chair of the Southeastern Regional Board, Southeastern Regional Conference Marshal, South Carolina State Director, and Basileus of the Kappa Eta Zeta Chapter.

In addition to her duties as Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta, Mrs. Moore serves as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. She is also very active in the community as a member of Project Blueprint, The Columbia Forum, Ebony Keys, the Ridgewood Ladies Golf Club and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. She is a former board member of the Midlands YWCA, Richland County March of Dimes Foundation, and the Three Rivers Health Care Agency.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including being named one of Ebony magazine's top five organizational leaders in the country. She has been inducted into the United Black Fund of the Midlands' South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and recognized