

# Democrat Strategy to Extend the Patriot Act Exposes How Both Parties Scheme to Renew the Invasive Data Collection Provisions of the Patriot Act



Congress is set to extend surveillance provisions in the Patriot Act that includes Section 215, which allows the government to gain access to business records and conduct roving wiretaps of people trying to duck surveillance and counterterrorism investigations. The Patriot Act provisions have been hidden deep within the Continuing Resolution (CR) that temporarily funds the government and is likely to be passed by Congress. Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) said, "The scam here is that Democrats are alleging abuse of Presidential power, while simultaneously reauthorizing warrantless power to spy on citizens that no President should have... in a bill that continues to fund EVERYTHING the President does... and waiving their own rules to do it."

A stopgap funding bill of House lawmakers extends surveillance-related provisions of the USA Patriot Act that were set to expire Dec. 15 for another three months.

The provision called Section 215 allows the government to gain access to business records and conduct roving wiretaps of

people trying to duck surveillance and counterterrorism investigations.

Some lawmakers are in opposition because of concerns that data can be collected on private citizens, as The Washington Post reported.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., offered a strong opposition on his Facebook page early Tuesday morning.

He wrote: "Congress will vote to extend warrantless data collection provisions of the #PatriotAct, by hiding this language on page 25 of the Continuing Resolution (CR) that temporarily funds the government. To sneak this through, Congress will first vote to suspend the rule which otherwise gives us (and the people) 72 hours to consider a bill."

He added: "The scam here is that Democrats are alleging abuse of Presidential power, while simultaneously reauthorizing warrantless power to spy on citizens that no President should have... in a bill that continues to fund EVERYTHING the President does... and waiving their own rules to do it."

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