



New
Democrat
Coalition

Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher, Chair
Rep. Adam Smith, Vice-Chair
Rep. Ron Kind, Vice-Chair
Rep. Artur Davis, Vice-Chair
Rep. Joseph Crowley, Vice-Chair

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New Democrat Coalition Endorses Improved FISA Legislation

Today the 60-Member New Democrat Coalition endorsed the FISA Amendments Act, H.R. 6304, saying it finds common ground that enhances both security and privacy rights. The bipartisan compromise is expected to be voted on in the House tomorrow.

The legislation will increase the nation's security by strengthening the ability of the intelligence community to conduct lawful surveillance of terrorists, as well as protect constitutional rights by requiring warrants before the government can conduct surveillance on any American.

A strong, smart national security policy is one of the New Dems' three major areas of focus, along with technological innovation and economic competitiveness.

After the meeting in which the New Dems voted to back the legislation, the leadership of the Coalition issued the following statements:

"The balance of security and privacy rights are both important New Dem priorities, and I believe this bill finds common ground that enhances both." --- **Rep. Ellen Tauscher**, Chair of the New Democrat Coalition

"This compromise is a major improvement over both the Senate bill and current law. It gives intelligence agencies needed tools to fight terrorism, while protecting Americans' constitutional rights through robust judicial oversight, ensuring the President can never again go outside the law, and providing a reasonable solution for the problem of stalled telecommunications liability cases." --- **Rep. Adam Smith**, Vice Chair of the New Democrat Coalition

"I am pleased that Democrats and Republicans have reached a sound compromise on FISA, which strengthens our capacity to combat terrorism without diminishing our Constitution. It is a tribute to the ideal of bipartisanship that this bill reaches the floor to ensure that America's interests stay secure." --- **Rep. Artur Davis**, Vice Chair of the New Democrat Coalition

"There is no question that we must do things differently to protect ourselves in a post-September 11th world, including how we gather intelligence and investigate potential threats to our national security. While not perfect, this legislation improves current law by protecting the rights and

civil liberties of Americans while at the same time providing the necessary tools to defend our country." --- **Rep. Ron Kind**, Vice Chair of the New Democrat Coalition

“This new FISA bill is leaps and bounds better than the Bush Administration’s original proposal – taking important steps to modernize our intelligence system and the tracking of terrorists while also bolstering protections for Americans’ civil liberties. I am going to support this measure; however, I am going to work hard to elect a new Democratic Administration this fall that will enact policies that further enhance the safety and the inalienable rights of all Americans.” --- **Rep. Joe Crowley**, Vice Chair of the New Democrat Coalition

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