

July 16, 2019

**RE: Vote “YES” on Jayapal-Meadows Amendment #13 to H.R. 3494, the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020**

Dear Representative:

The ACLU urges you to vote “YES” on the Jayapal-Meadows Amendment #13 to H.R. 3494. The amendment requires that the Director of National Intelligence submit a report to the intelligence committees on the use of face recognition – a critical first step in ensuring that there is appropriate transparency regarding the government’s use of face recognition. The amendment would require reporting on critical issues, including current uses of the technology, accuracy, policies and procedures to safeguard human rights, potential impact on First Amendment rights, and the sufficiency of existing redress procedures.



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**The amendment also includes a sense of Congress that the government should not engage in the transfer or sale of face recognition technology that is used to suppress human rights.** We have already seen examples of foreign governments using face recognition technology to suppress dissent and target minorities. For example, in China, the government is amassing face recognition databases of individuals who have mental illnesses, used drugs, or petitioned the government with grievances. The government is also using the technology as a tool to track and suppress ethnic minorities, including the Uighur population. For example, China reportedly keeps a face recognition database of all Uighurs who leave the province of Xinjiang, and are developing systems that can alert police when a Uighur moves into a new neighborhood.<sup>1</sup> It is critical that the U.S. government not aid or be complicit in these human rights abuses.

**We urge you to vote “YES” on the Jayapal-Meadows amendment.** If you have any questions, please contact Neema Singh Guliani, Senior Legislative Counsel at [nguliani@aclu.org](mailto:nguliani@aclu.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Newman".

Ronald Newman  
National Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neema Singh Guliani".

Neema Singh Guliani  
Senior Legislative Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Mozur, *One-month, 500,000 Scans: How China is Using A.I. to Profile a Minority*, NY Times (April 14, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/14/technology/china-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-racial-profiling.html>.