

Don't Confuse The PATRIOT Act With PATRIOTISM

When the PATRIOT Act was rushed into law just weeks after 9/11, it gave enormous new powers to the government. Despite good intentions at the time, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, now agree that:

1. Congress acted too quickly.
2. The PATRIOT Act went too far in restricting our rights.

But that isn't stopping some Members of Congress from trying to expand the PATRIOT Act by rushing another new proposal into law over the next several weeks as Congress considers the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

The 9/11 Commission certainly didn't propose expanding the PATRIOT Act. On the contrary, the Commission recommended taking a closer look at whether the PATRIOT Act's existing limits on our civil liberties are either necessary or effective.

There is nothing patriotic about taking away even more of the basic rights and liberties that have served as cornerstones of our democracy for more than 200 years.

We can be both safe *and* free.



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