

THE PATRIOT ACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT IT IS NOW LEGAL FOR GOVERNMENT AGENTS TO...

...BREAK INTO YOUR HOME WHEN YOU ARE AWAY, CONDUCT A SEARCH - AND KEEP YOU FROM FINDING OUT FOR DAYS, WEEKS OR EVEN MONTHS THAT A WARRANT WAS EVER ISSUED?

...GET THE COURTS TO RUBBER STAMP THEIR DEMANDS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOOKS YOU READ AND THE MATERIALS YOU BORROW FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND CRIMINALLY CHARGE LIBRARIANS IF THEY TELL YOU?

...OBTAIN YOUR CREDIT REPORTS AND OTHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION WITHOUT JUDICIAL APPROVAL AND WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT?

THE NEW POWERS CAN BE USED EVEN IN INVESTIGATIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TERRORISM. THESE AND OTHER CHANGES IN OUR LAWS GAVE GOVERNMENT THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS IT SOUGHT AFTER SEPT. 11, 2001. THESE CHANGES WERE RUSHED THROUGH CONGRESS JUST 45 DAYS AFTER THE ATTACKS, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

WE NOW KNOW THE USA PATRIOT ACT WENT TOO FAR.

IT WENT FAR BEYOND FIGHTING TERRORISM - REMOVING THE CHECKS AND BALANCES THAT HAVE HELPED PREVENT POLICE AND OTHER LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENTS FROM ABUSING THEIR POWER.

IT ALLOWED GOVERNMENT AGENTS TO VIOLATE OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES - TAPPING DEEP INTO THE PRIVATE LIVES OF INNOCENT AMERICANS.

AND, JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET WORSE, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING A SECOND EXPANSION-OF-POWERS BILL THAT WOULD GO EVEN FURTHER.

INCREDIBLY, ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT'S DOMESTIC SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003 ("PATRIOT ACT II") WOULD GRANT GOVERNMENT AGENTS EVEN BROADER AUTHORITY TO SEARCH OUR HOMES, LEARN WHAT WE READ, FIND OUT WHERE WE VACATION AND MONITOR WHAT DRUGS OUR DOCTORS PRESCRIBE.

IT WOULD ALLOW:

THE GOVERNMENT TO STRIP AMERICANS OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP IF THEY HAVE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS LABELED AS "TERRORIST" BY THE GOVERNMENT - EVEN IF THEY KNOW NOTHING OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ALLEGED LINKS TO TERRORISM (SECTION 501).

EXPANSION OF HOME SEARCHES AND WIRETAPS WITHOUT A WARRANT (SECTIONS 103 AND 104).

SECRET ARRESTS (SECTION 201).

NEW IMMUNITY FOR FEDERAL AGENTS WHO CONDUCT ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE WITH THE APPROVAL OF HIGH-RANKING EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS (SECTION 106). THIS PROVISION WOULD HAVE PROTECTED THE NIXON-ERA WIRETAPPERS. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ATTACKS CORE LIBERTIES, IT GOES TOO FAR.

WHEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REMOVES VITAL CHECKS AND BALANCES THAT HAVE KEPT US SAFE AND FREE FOR MORE THAN 220 YEARS, IT CAUSES PERMANENT DAMAGE TO CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

BEFORE CONGRESS GOES ANY FURTHER, IT SHOULD INVESTIGATE HOW THE POWERS IT HAS ALREADY GIVEN PRESIDENT BUSH AND JOHN ASHCROFT ARE ALREADY BEING USED...OR ABUSED.

LEARN HOW TO GET CONGRESS TO STOP USA PATRIOT II AND PROTECT CORE AMERICAN VALUES. TAKE ACTION NOW TO PREVENT THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SPY POWERS.

STAY INFORMED. SIGN UP FOR THE ACLU'S FREE BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.
MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO HELP PROTECT LIBERTY.

LOG ON: WWW.ACLU.ORG



TAKE A STAND FOR FREEDOM...BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF.

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