

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

August 6, 2009

Dear Attorney General Holder:

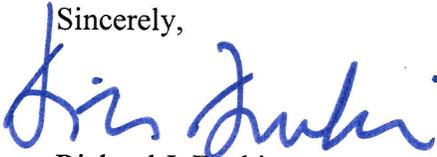
As you know, several provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act will expire at the end of this year. We believe that Congress should revise PATRIOT Act and related authorities to better protect the constitutional rights of American citizens, while preserving the powers our government needs to fight terrorism.

As the Department formulates its views on the PATRIOT Act, we ask you to consider the Security and Freedom Enhancement or SAFE Act of 2005 (S. 737) and the National Security Letter (NSL) Reform Act of 2007 (S. 2088), both narrowly tailored bipartisan bills that would have added important constitutional protections to several provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. We are original cosponsors of the SAFE Act and the NSL Reform Act and, of special relevance for the Administration, then-Senator Barack Obama was a cosponsor of the SAFE Act and the NSL Reform Act. While a few provisions of the SAFE Act were included in the PATRIOT Act reauthorization, most of the bill's key reforms were not.

Additionally, we ask you to consider the views expressed in the attached letter of December 14, 2005, which identifies several important reforms from the Senate-passed version of the PATRIOT Act reauthorization bill that were not included in the final version of the bill. We signed this letter, as did then-Senator Obama.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator