

hold hearings, question witnesses about the program, and consider its legality. Congress needs to step up and exercise its proper oversight responsibility, something it has failed to do for 5 years. At a minimum, the oversight committees must make a determination on the legality of this program.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the administration will contend that questioning the existence of this database is undermining our Nation's security efforts. It is essential that the President must have the best possible intelligence to protect our Nation, and he must be able to gather this intelligence. However, this has to be done in accordance with our Constitution, the bedrock of our Nation.

Despite what this administration would have us believe, securing our Nation from all enemies, both foreign and domestic, can be achieved without violations of our constitutional freedoms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONTINUED VIOLATION OF AMERICANS' PRIVACY BY ILLEGAL SPYING CANNOT BE TOLERATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the continued violation of Americans' privacy by illegal spying cannot be tolerated. Today we found that this administration is building a database of millions of Americans' phone calls to know who we called and who called us. This is a privacy right that needs to be protected and respected, and we have now seen multiple violations of this principle where illegal spying has occurred.

The U.S. Congress must hold hearings. It must stop illegal spying. I will be offering an amendment on the defense appropriations bill to assure that no taxpayer money can be used for illegal spying to violate the privacy rights of Americans.

The excuse we may hear from the administration is that, no, these conversations may not be taped. But who Americans called is a privacy right and is protected by the law, and who calls us is a privacy right and it is protected by the law. It is protected by section 222 of the Communications Act, it is

protected by the fourth amendment to the United States Constitution, and it is protected by the common sense of the American people that we ought to protect our privacy and democracy at the same time we are protecting our security. And both can be protected.

The fact of the matter is that the FISA law builds in the ability of the Federal Government to in fact crack down on terrorism, something we all want to do. We want to have an aggressive program of electronic eavesdropping on al Qaeda and other terrorists, but we want to make sure that that is done within the law on the simple proposition that when the Federal Government does electronic eavesdropping, there is another set of eyes overseeing that program: our judges, our judicial system.

What the law demands and Americans demand and the Constitution demands is that there is a review through the warrant process so that a warrant is obtained when this eavesdropping occurs. And if there is not time for that, under the FISA law, warrants can be obtained 72 hours thereafter retroactively.

So what we are saying, and I think the broad swath of the millions of Americans who have to know tonight, is that somewhere in this country there is a database sitting with your records that belong to you that is subject to your privacy that has now been violated by the Federal Government, without any review whatsoever by a judge and without review whatsoever and oversight of the United States Congress. That is wrong, and it has simply got to stop.

The U.S. Congress has an obligation. It is an obligation to stand up to an administration that refuses to abide by the law. This is a precious thing, democracy; and democracy is most precious when it is threatened. When we are currently involved in a war, it is most important to rise to the protection of our privacy.

We have been involved in these fights for our privacy now for some period of time. We have fought to protect the private records of our cell phone records from being sold to telemarketers; we have fought to prevent our tax records being sold to other people who will market to us; and now we need to fight to make sure there is a review and a warrant given before, or at least after, our phone records are put into some master database with the privacy of millions of Americans violated.

The reason we found out about this today is that the journalists have reported on this. Unfortunately, the administration has not been forthcoming to tell the U.S. Congress what they have been doing; and the U.S. Congress, the folks elected by people from 435 districts in 50 States, ought to have access to this information so that there can be oversight. There is not a review of this.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress needs to stand up and be

counted, stand up and be counted for the privacy rights of America, to stop the violation of privacy that we have in our phone records. Who we called and who called us is a private matter. It ought to be protected, and we are going to ensure that it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DOING BETTER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I took the opportunity to wish all of our mothers a very happy Mother's Day. Might I include my colleagues and their relatives, the staff of this House and this Congress, because this is an opportunity for us to simply say thank you, thank you to the many mothers who work every single day, whether in the home or outside the home. Whether they are your mom because they are related, or because they have just simply given you a greater opportunity in life, they deserve a thank you.

Might I also offer my appreciation to the moms who are on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan and serving in the United States military.

This is an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to kind of recount where we are in this Congress and to ensure that we really are working on the kind of legislative agenda that really helps our families.

I guess I would argue somewhat with the statement that we have worked as hard as we should have worked. For example, the tax reconciliation bill gives most of the benefit to the richest of Americans. If you make a certain amount, if you are a hard-working single mom, you might even get the minimal \$9 tax break. I know we can do better.

Then let me say as we look to the United States military, we should remember that they are on the front lines so that we might be free. I am very proud today that, almost unanimously, this Congress passed by 415-9 an amendment that I offered to the defense authorization bill that will say happy Mother's Day to all the Reserve and National Guard families, because the amendment provides a clarifying feature, and that feature is that we will take into consideration the number of deployments one has had before further utilization of that particular soldier is enacted. We will take into consideration how many deployments there have been.

I have heard from Reserve families all around the Nation, and particularly