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Hoekstra: Correcting the Record on FISA and New Terrorist Threats

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the full quotation from *The New York Times* of Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Wainstein discussing the intelligence challenges caused by House Democrat leadership’s refusal to modernize terrorist surveillance laws. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer took a quote from Wainstein from the Jan. 23, 2008 article out of context in talking points released to House Democrats. In addition, Hoekstra pointed out that to the best of his knowledge, none of the outside sources cited in Hoyer’s talking points currently has a security clearance that would allow any informed insight into actual intelligence collection under the Protect America Act.

“Kenneth L. Wainstein, assistant attorney general for national security, said in an interview that if the August bill was allowed to expire in 10 days, intelligence officials would still be able to continue eavesdropping on already approved targets for another year under the law.

“But “there is a risk,” Mr. Wainstein said, that the officials would not be able to use their broadened authority to identify and focus on new suspects and would have to revert to the more restrictive, pre-August standards if they wanted to eavesdrop on someone.”