



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Reyes statement on Warrantless Surveillance Program

Washington, D.C. – *Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement in response to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' announcement regarding the warrantless surveillance program:*

“For the past year, since the disclosure of the President’s warrantless surveillance program, I have urged the Administration to seek warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court before eavesdropping on the American people. Today, the Director of National Intelligence informed me that the Administration has heeded this advice and will now seek court authorization for all surveillance conducted under this program.

“This decision is welcome news, if long overdue. It proves that this surveillance has always been possible under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and that there was never a good reason to evade the law. I commend our former Ranking Member Jane Harman, who pressed the Administration for months to bring this program under supervision of the FISA Court.

“This announcement does not end our Committee’s interest in this matter. Until our Committee has the opportunity to review the Court orders and conduct in-depth oversight over this program, I am withholding judgment on whether it is effective and whether it protects the rights of the American people.

“The President still insists that he has the inherent authority to conduct surveillance of Americans without court warrants. I strongly disagree and believe that FISA remains the exclusive way to conduct electronic surveillance of Americans.

“I also recognize that the effort to bring this program under FISA required a great deal of work by the Attorney General and his team, and I am hopeful that the decision to comply with FISA will demonstrate a renewed commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law.”