



## **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**

**Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Chairman**

<http://intelligence.house.gov>

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Contact: Kira Maas: 202-225-4831 or 202-225-2912 (cell)

### **Statement by Chairman Reyes on Republican Announcement Regarding FISA Legislation**

**Washington, D.C.** – *Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement today in response to the press conference held by Representatives Roy Blunt (R-MO), Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), and Heather Wilson (R-NM) to announce legislation regarding the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act:*

“I support strong tools for our intelligence professionals to track the communications of terror suspects, infiltrate their cells, and disrupt their plans,” said Reyes. “At the same time, when the surveillance involves Americans, we need to take care to preserve the constitutional liberties that our people cherish. The House Intelligence Committee is currently conducting a full review of surveillance activities – including the President’s NSA Surveillance Program, as well as the adequacy of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

“To date, our review has uncovered numerous inefficiencies in the current FISA system. It is not yet clear whether changes to the statute are necessary, but if they are required and justified, we will address them. We are working intensively on this issue, and we will not stop our efforts until we identify solutions with the Administration to close identified gaps in our intelligence capabilities.

“I do believe, however, that Rep. Wilson’s legislative approach is based on several faulty assumptions, which are outlined in the attached letter to her. I am also highly concerned because I received notice of her legislation and her press conference through outside organizations, and not from her. There is no room for partisan politics when our nation’s security is at stake, and I invite her, once again, to work with me to craft solutions to our national security problems.

“Finally, it has been 54 days since Ranking Member Hoekstra and I sent a bipartisan letter requesting information from the Administration about its surveillance activities. Specifically, we asked for copies of the Presidential Authorizations and legal opinions for surveillance outside of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. As we noted in our letter, the Committee cannot begin a serious evaluation of legislative proposals to alter the FISA system unless we have facts regarding legal authorities.

“If the Administration is serious about the need for legislation in this area, the President will insist that Congress be given all of the facts.”