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Reyes comments on President's statement on the Protect America Act

Washington, D.C. – *Today, President Bush included the permanent extension of the Protect America Act on his list of legislative priorities for Congress, expressing that some in Congress want to restrict tools for the men and women of the U.S. intelligence community. Chairman Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement:*

“Rather than restricting the intelligence community, legislation drafted by the House Intelligence Committee and House Judiciary Committee and passed by the U.S. House provides our intelligence professionals with additional surveillance tools to track terrorists and weapons proliferators, while protecting innocent Americans from warrantless eavesdropping.

“Congress should not permanently extend the Protect America Act. Instead of trying to intimidate Congress into making a flawed bill permanent, the President should work with Congress to protect our country, while preserving the rights of our citizens. The Senate is currently working to reconcile a version of domestic surveillance legislation between the Senate Intelligence and Judiciary Committees. We look forward to negotiating with the Senate and developing a responsible bill.”