

**RESOLUTION COMMENDS SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY AND CONGRESSMAN JAMES SENSENBRENNER
FOR SPONSORING THE USA FREEDOM ACT**

Whereas the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) operates multiple classified programs to collect, mine, retain, and share with third parties data on U.S. persons who are not under investigation for criminal activity;

Whereas the data collected by these programs include activities of library users;

Whereas these programs are conducted with minimal oversight and inadequate transparency;

Whereas among recent decisions and study group reports there is no consensus regarding the constitutionality and statutory basis of these programs¹;

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) is committed to the principles of privacy, open government, governmental transparency, and accountability²;

Whereas the ALA has defended vigorously the privacy rights of library users and supported openness, accountability and governmental transparency³; and

Whereas Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) have introduced the USA FREEDOM Act (H.R. 3361/S. 1599) which

- ends bulk collection of U.S. persons' communications records
- requires court orders to collect U.S. persons' communications under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments Act
- creates new and shorter sunset provisions to ensure proper oversight
- reforms the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court
- increases transparency and oversight
- limits the types of records obtainable under Section 215 and National Security Letters and the authority by which they are obtained;

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

commends Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman James Sensenbrenner for sponsoring the USA FREEDOM Act, the 143 legislators in the Senate and the House who have co-sponsored it, and the 85 organizations that have endorsed it, as of January 27, 2014.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

¹ *ACLU v. Clapper* (S.D.N.Y.) (*slip op.* December 27, 2013); FISC 3 October 2011 decision, released 21 August 2013; *Klayman v. Obama* (D.D.C.) (*slip op.*, December 16, 2013); Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 2014, *Report on the Telephone Records Program*; President's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies, 2013, *Liberty and Security in a Changing World*

² Article III, *ALA Code of Ethics*, 1939; *ALA Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records*, 1971; *Policy concerning Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information about Library Users*, 1991; *Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, 2002; *ALA Resolution on the Retention of Library Usage Records*, 2006; *Resolution on the Need for Reforms for the Intelligence Community to Support Privacy, Open Government, Government Transparency, and Accountability*, 2013

³ *Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in the Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks*, 2002; *Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Related Measures That Infringe on the Rights of Library Users*, 2003; *Resolution on the Terrorism Information Awareness Program*, 2003; *Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Libraries*, 2005; *Resolution on the Use and*

