

4780 S. Classical Blvd.
Delray Beach, Florida 33445-1225

July 28, 2013

The Honorable Lois J. Frankel
Member, United States House of Representatives
2500 N. Military Trail, Suite 490
Boca Raton, Florida 33431-6354

Ms. Frankel,

As one of your constituents I am writing to request an in-district meeting during the upcoming August recess to share concerns I have over blanket surveillance by the National Security Agency and your recent vote against Rep. Amash's H.R. 2397 amendment¹ "to end authority for the blanket collection of records under the Patriot Act."²

Although national security is a concern not to be taken lightly I fear that the previously-undisclosed actions of the National Security Agency (N.S.A.) and executive branch dramatically infringe on foundational civil liberties. For this, a membership organization of which I am part has filed suit against the U.S. and members of the executive branch³ seeking court injunction in protection of Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of free association (1st Amdmnt.), protection against general warrants (4th Amdmnt.), and legal due process (5th Amdmnt.). The lawsuit falls in line with a series of similar⁴ and ongoing⁵ court-adjudicated cases.

I am the founder of OpenMeetings.org, an online video platform designed to increase availability, discoverability, and liberty to comment on archived meetings that span a broad range of social issues. OpenMeetings.org is being proposed as a Wikimedia Foundation Sister Project; the proposal in full is available at the following URL:

<https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/OpenMeetings.org>

While there is a reduced expectation of privacy in public meetings and events—participants by-and-large are aware of the public nature of their presence and provided comments—I fear that the mere existence of a government program engaged in generalized domestic surveillance will result in an increasingly-broad chilling effect in public meetings. Specifically, attendance, unbiased participation and willingness to communicate views openly, and even willingness to hold meetings and events which are open-to-the-public are threatened by the sheer scope of ongoing N.S.A. domestic surveillance.

Additionally, these government programs undermine efforts to promote democratic principles in an international context, open meetings included.

I appreciate your consideration of these issues and look forward to meeting with you and members of your staff. Please feel free to circulate this letter among your colleagues as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Chriss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George S. Chriss III
Founder, OpenMeetings.org

[1] "Final Vote Results for Roll Call 412." *Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives*, Amash of Michigan Amendment No. 100, 24-July-2013. <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll1412.xml>

[2] "H.Amdt.413 to H.R.2397." *Congress.gov*, 113th Congress (2013-2014). <http://beta.congress.gov/amendment/113th-congress/house-amendment/413>

[3] The Free Software Foundation (F.S.F.) has filed suit on behalf of itself and adversely affected members and staff as a co-plaintiff in *First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, et al., v. National Security Agency et al.* CV 13 3287 (N.D. Cal. 2013). My F.S.F. member number is 11490.

[4] *American Civil Liberties Union, et al., v. National Security Agency, et al.*, 493 F.3d 644 (6th Cir. 2007) and *American Civil Liberties Union, et al., v. James R. Clapper et al.* 13 CIV 3994 (S.D. N.Y. 2013).

[5] *Carolyn Jewel, et al., v. National Security Agency, et al.* C 08 4373 (N.D. Cal. 2008)

CC: Electronic Frontier Foundation, 815 Eddy Street, San Francisco California 94109-7701

Encl.: Supplemental Contact Information