

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution states: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 was recently reauthorized for 2 more years. Section 702 of FISA is a statute that authorizes the **collection, use & dissemination of electronic communications content** stored by Internet service and telecom providers. Section 702 does not require that the surveillance target be a suspected terrorist, spy, or other agent of a foreign power. This statute allows the US government to engage in mass, **warrantless** surveillance of Americans' & foreigners' phone calls, text messages, emails, and other electronic communications. Information collected under this law can be used to prosecute & imprison people, even for crimes that have nothing to do with national security. This is in direct violation of the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution.

At what point does this warrantless surveillance ever stop? If we use the WiFi at a coffee shop, at a hotel, in a hospital, at HEB - at any place that has free WiFi, even at home using our own WiFi - our private communications can be spied on by the US government. How about the records here at the County? What's to stop the federal government from spying on human resources records, payroll information, jail inmate records, health records, mental health records, child abuse records, court cases - all without a warrant? This is a dramatic expansion of the surveillance state!

Our very own US Representative John Carter voted FOUR TIMES in support of the FISA 702 bill, without the warrant requirement. John Carter was a district court judge in Williamson County before he joined the ranks of the Washington DC cesspool - John Carter very well understands the ramifications of a warrant requirement. Guess who gets an exemption from the massive domestic surveillance expansion in the FISA reauthorization bill? Members of Congress! Permission is needed to spy on members of Congress. Rules for us, but not for them!

I submit that John Carter is a TRAITOR who has betrayed his constituents by violating his Oath of Office and his duty to uphold the Constitution.

We The People are watching & keeping notes. We do not and will not take kindly to those who violate our God-given Constitutional rights.

Written by Claire Nybro