

Coffman Statement on Renewing the Patriot Act

(WASHINGTON) – Today, U.S. Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO) voted for the extension of three provisions of the Patriot Act designed to combat terrorism. The first is a “roving” wiretap that will allow law enforcement to use a single wiretap order to cover any communications device that an individual suspect uses or is about to use. Without roving wiretap authority, investigators would be forced to seek a new court order each time a terrorist changes cell phones or email accounts. The second allows the FBI to apply to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA) to issue orders granting the government access to business records. The third, the “lone wolf” provision allows law enforcement to target a non-U.S. person suspected of engaging in terrorism but who is acting alone and isn’t linked to a foreign terrorist organization.

“When law enforcement needs access to business records, roving wiretaps or a lone wolf designation, they must first get permission from a FISA court. I strongly believe that the three provisions of the Patriot Act that I voted for contain the necessary legal safeguards that balance security concerns with civil liberties,” Coffman said.

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