



Written by [Dennis Behreandt](#) on July 20, 2008

Warrantless-search Legislation Moves Forward

Opponents of the bill say that the compromise, like the earlier version, will legalize the illegal warrantless surveillance carried out under the Bush administration's orders between 2001 and 2007. The bill would also dismiss the approximately 40 lawsuits against telecommunications companies that provided customer information to U.S. government agencies during that period.



On June 25, the Senate voted 80-15 to end a filibuster to block a vote on the bill itself. The Senate is expected to vote for passage of the bill after the July 4 recess.

According to Senator Feingold (D-Wis.), "This legislation is going to be remembered as the legislation in which Congress granted the executive branch the power to sweep up all of our international communications, with very few controls or oversight." It is, he said, a "get out of jail free" card for those companies that illegally furnished the federal government with telecommunication information after 9/11. Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas) called the FISA bill "a gutting of the Fourth Amendment," and "anti-American, deeply disturbing, and completely unacceptable."



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