

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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KEY ISSUE: PRIVACY, SURVEILLANCE & CYBERSECURITY

OBJECTIVE: Restore the Constitutional privacy rights of library users and the civil liberties of all Americans lost to multiple overbroad and inadequately “checked and balanced” statutes, including the USA Patriot, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance, and Electronic Communications Privacy Acts.

PERSPECTIVE: For decades, librarians have defended the public’s Fourth Amendment privacy rights against government attempts to obtain patrons’ borrowing (and later internet surfing) records without a warrant. Today, the American Library Association works with and through broad coalitions of major public interest groups, bipartisan think tanks, and private sector companies to advocate for both liberty and security without sacrificing one for the other.

PRIORITIES: ALA urges Members of the 115th Congress to . . .

- ◆ *PASS* the ***Email Privacy Act***, approved 419–0 as H.R. 699 in the 114th Congress, to finally update the 30-year old Electronic Communications Privacy Act to clearly require a warrant to access the content of Americans’ electronic communications of any kind immediately upon their creation;
- ◆ *REFORM* **Section 702 of the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*** to preclude the warrant-less “back door” search of citizens’ phone and internet communications facilitated by the targeting of non-US citizens domestically or abroad, establish enhanced Congressional and other expert oversight of the program and to regularly disclose in a meaningful way the scope of its use; and
- ◆ *SUSPEND* the changes made to **Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure** effective December 1, 2016 pending comprehensive Congressional hearings on their justification and unintended negative impacts on personal privacy rights and the nation’s digital infrastructure.

ALA positions on specific legislation are available at www.ala.org/ogr