

A Dear Colleague letter

April 26, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

Please join me in opposing the **Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (HR 3523)**, which will create a monstrous coalition of big business and big government to rob Americans of their protections under the 4th Amendment of the Constitution.

CISPA permits both the federal government and private companies to view your private online communications with **no judicial oversight**, provided they merely do so in the name of “cybersecurity.” But **America is a constitutional republic, not a surveillance state** -- and the wildly overhyped need for security does not trump the Constitution we all swore to uphold.

□ **“Cybersecurity” is the responsibility of companies that operate and make money in cyberspace, not taxpayers.** Those companies should develop market-based private solutions to secure their networks, servers, cloud data centers, and user/customer information. The role of the US intelligence community is to protect the United States from military threats, not to provide corporate welfare to the private sector. Much like TSA at the airport, CISPA would socialize security costs and remove market incentives for private firms to protect their own investments.

Imagine security-cleared agents embedded at private companies to serve as conduits for intelligence information about their customers back to the US intelligence community-- while enjoying immunity from any existing civil or criminal laws. Imagine Google or Facebook reporting directly to the National Security Agency about the online activity of US citizens. Imagine US government resources being wasted on a grand scale to “assist” private companies

in the global market. All of this would become reality under CISPA.

Therefore I urge you to support internet freedom, support the 4th Amendment, and oppose corporatism by voting NO on CISPA!

Sincerely,

Ron Paul, M.D.
Member of Congress