Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan Speaker U.S. House of Representatives H-232, United States Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204, United States Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam Leader:

We are writing to demand that any effort to extend the FISA Amendments Act past December 31, 2017, be considered by the House as a standalone bill.

The government's intelligence-gathering activities under the FISA Amendments Act raise important questions about security, privacy, transparency, civil rights, constitutional law, and the appropriate reach of government power in an age of dispersed, evolving national security threats.

The House has spent much of this year debating these questions. Two separate committees have passed hotly debated legislation to reauthorize the FISA Amendments Act, with each bill offering a distinct vision of what the law should look like. Outside the committees, other legislation has been introduced to offer competing proposals for how the law should be reformed.

We are fast approaching the law's expiration date, and none of these bills have been considered on the House floor. Meanwhile, other legislative deadlines are looming, including a government funding deadline.

There may be temptation to attach reauthorization of the FISA Amendments Act to a large endof-year legislative package, but doing so would undermine representative democracy by effectively precluding most members of Congress from being heard on the important issues it raises and preventing the public from finding out where their representatives stand. It also could further undermine public trust in the intelligence community by suggesting that one of its most heavily used statutory authorities could not have been reauthorized under regular order. None of these outcomes is desirable, and all are easily avoided by bringing reauthorization to the floor as a standalone bill.

The House exists to debate the very sorts of issues raised by the FISA Amendments Act, and we insist on the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

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