

Dear Senator,

We urge you to support a floor vote on the Leahy-Lee Amendment – SA 6214, the FISA Amici Curiae Reform Act of 2022 – to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

Such a vote should be easy to obtain. In May 2020 this measure received 77 votes on the Senate floor when offered as an amendment to the USA Freedom Reauthorization Act. This overwhelming, bipartisan support reflects the common-sense recognition of the need for the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) to have access to independent advice on civil liberties when the government seeks to spy on domestic media, religious, political, and other particularly sensitive groups.

The Leahy-Lee Amendment would strengthen and expand the role of the independent amici who appear before the secret FISA Court in these sensitive cases. It would safeguard Americans' First Amendment rights by empowering the Court with the advice of amici when government seeks to use FISA surveillance in such sensitive investigative matters.

Expert amici *are the only representatives the public has* before the FISC, even though these court decisions can secretly affect the privacy of every single person in the United States. Inclusion of the Leahy-Lee Amendment to the NDAA is an important step in preventing recurrences of surveillance abuses that are a matter of concern for leaders and citizens in both parties.

We urge you to balance the needs of national security with expert legal advice to represent the public interest in secret surveillance.

Please support a vote on the inclusion of the Leahy-Lee Amendment to the

NDAA.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union

Americans for Prosperity

Demand Progress

Due Process Institute

FreedomWorks

Project for Privacy & Surveillance Accountability

Restore The Fourth

Wikimedia Foundation

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Project for Privacy & Surveillance Accountability
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