The Government Surveillance Reform Act of 2026

The Government Surveillance Reform Act provides a comprehensive and balanced approach to protecting Americans' civil liberties from threats posed by modern technologies, while preserving our national security and reauthorizing Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) authorizes the government to warrantlessly collect the communications of foreigners overseas for foreign intelligence information. But this collection sweeps up the data of countless Americans involved in those communications. Under current law, the government can conduct "backdoor" searches of that collection for Americans' data, without a warrant or court oversight. The government has repeatedly abused this process to probe the data of protestors, political campaign donors, elected officials, and even a state judge who complained about police abuses to the FBI. To protect Americans' constitutional rights, Section 702 must be reformed.

At the same time, advances in surveillance technology, including AI and commercial data sales, have far outpaced the existing legal protections for Americans' rights. The upcoming sunset of Section 702 gives Congress the chance to comprehensively reform government surveillance laws and protect Americans' civil liberties, while preserving national security.

The Government Surveillance Reform Act would represent the most comprehensive reform of surveillance laws in nearly half a century. The bill reauthorizes Section 702 for four years with necessary privacy reforms and constitutional safeguards, including:

- **Closing the backdoor search loophole:** The bill requires the federal government to get a warrant to access Americans' data gathered under Section 702, with important exceptions for emergency situations.
- **Closing the data broker loophole**: The bill bans the federal government from buying Americans' data from data brokers without a warrant.
- **Prohibiting reverse targeting:** The bill prohibits surveillance on foreigners overseas through Section 702 as a pretext for gathering data on Americans.
- **Repealing the "make everyone a spy" provision:** This bill repeals a controversial 2024 expansion that allows the government to force millions of Americans and companies to secretly spy on its behalf.
- **Reforming intelligence collection outside FISA:** This bill protects Americans from intelligence agencies using non-statutory authorities, including by prohibiting backdoor searches and reverse targeting outside of FISA.
- **Updating privacy protections for AI and other modern technologies**: This bill requires federal law enforcement to get a warrant to surveil Americans' location information, web browsing data, search and chatbot records, and car onboard and telematics data.
- **Halting warrantless collection of business records:** This bill protects Americans' data from warrantless collection under an authority that expired over five years ago.
- **Enhancing oversight and accountability:** The bill strengthens judicial oversight, public reporting, and accountability requirements under FISA.