



Protect America Alert:

President Bush: "Without [This] Law, America Will Be More Vulnerable To Attack"

President Bush Calls On House Leaders To Allow Vote On Bipartisan Senate Foreign Surveillance Bill, Says "The Threat To America Has Not Expired"

Statement After Meeting With Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek
The White House
February 27, 2008

THE PRESIDENT: "[Y]ou asked about whether or not the United States of America should be able to listen to terrorists' phone calls coming into the United States. And the answer is, absolutely we should be doing this. There is still an extremist threat. People still want to attack our country, and we better understand what they're thinking, what they're planning and who they're talking to.

"And yet unfortunately a law passed to give our professionals the tools has expired. And it's expired because people want to take class action lawsuits against private phone carriers and other companies that ... were believed to have helped us protect America. It's not fair to say to a company that was believed to have helped us, it's important for you to help us, and then you get sued for billions of dollars. And such a policy would make it very difficult to get companies to fully cooperate with us in the future.

"The law is expired, but my fellow citizens must understand the threat to America has not expired. And our citizens who are paying attention to this debate must understand, without [this] law America will be more vulnerable to attack. Democrats and Republicans supported this law, and the House leaders must bring it to the floor, where it will pass with both Republican and Democrat vote. And if this law is allowed to expire, America will be more vulnerable. And that's inexcusable and it's indefensible."