U.S. Department of Justice

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ABC News/Washington Post Poll: 6 in 10 Americans Support PATRIOT Act Renewal

Little Rock, AR -- U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas Bud Cummins, announced that a new ABC News/Washington Post poll out today indicates there is considerable public support behind the call to renew the USA PATRIOT Act.

From the ABCNews.com report:

> Fifty-nine percent in an ABC News/Washington Post poll favor continuing the additional investigative authority in terrorism investigations that was granted to the FBI starting in 2001. President Bush urged such an extension of the Patriot Act today." You can read more about the ABC News/Washington Post poll at the following website: http://abcnews.go.com/US/PollVault/story?id=833703&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312

"We are glad to see this news and hope that it's a sign that the PATRIOT Act will be extended," stated Cummins. "Members of law enforcement have worked tirelessly to provide security to the American public since 9/11. The Patriot Act fixed several technical problems that

had to be fixed. It provided vital investigation tools. Most importantly, it allowed our criminal investigators to share information with foreign intelligence investigators."

Cummins added, "Many in law enforcement have become frustrated because many critics think it is okay to try and scare the public by misleading them about the PATRIOT Act. I have appeared at several events where critics were present. Not once has anyone been able to articulate any specific problem. Moreover, I am unaware of any instance where a person has come forward with an actual complaint of violated rights or other misuse. It would be wrong to water it down now, especially in light of those facts."

For more information about the USA PATRIOT Act, visit http://www.lifeandliberty.gov/

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