



### **Free Press Action Vote Recommendation on USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act (H.R. 6172)**

Free Press Action opposes the Lofgren-Davidson amendment as finalized and distributed on May 26 and currently scheduled for a vote along with the underlying USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act. While we were supportive of the Wyden-Daines amendment that prohibited the use of Section 215 of the Patriot Act for the warrantless surveillance of search and browser histories, the compromised language introduced in the House failed to secure this critical safeguard.

The Wyden-Daines amendment in the Senate fell just one vote short of the 60-vote supermajority needed to pass, due only to the absence of supportive Senators who would have voted for the measure had they cast a vote. Instead of moving forward with the popular, bipartisan amendment, leadership weakened the language so severely that Sen. Wyden ultimately opposed Lofgren-Davidson and told the [New York Times](#), “there is no agreement with the House Intelligence Committee to enact true protections for Americans’ rights against dragnet collection of online activity.”

While Free Press Action has fought these sweeping surveillance powers under Democratic and Republican Administrations alike, this is particularly concerning in the era of Donald Trump and Bill Barr, who have proven to be a significant threat to communities of color, activists and other vulnerable people. The House must move forward with legislation that contains strong reforms that protect the privacy of people in America, or let Section 215 of the Patriot Act stay lapsed as it has been since March.

We urge you to **oppose** the weakened Lofgren-Davidson amendment to the USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act that emerged this week, and also to oppose the underlying bill.