
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 567 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SWANGER, CLYMER, COHEN, CUTLER, DAY, DENLINGER,
GINGRICH, HARHART, JAMES, MILLARD, MURT AND TALLMAN,
NOVEMBER 21, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the actions of the Federal Government and the
2 National Security Agency to engage in illegal domestic
3 surveillance of the citizens of the United States and the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, Details were made public about the National Security
6 Agency (NSA) gathering massive amounts of electronic data
7 involving United States citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, The fourth amendment to the Constitution of the
9 United States states, "The right of the people to be secure in
10 their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable
11 searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants
12 shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or
13 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be
14 searched, and the persons or things to be seized."; and

15 WHEREAS, Publicly available information about the PRISM
16 program, and other methods of domestic surveillance, have shown
17 a complete lack of oversight regarding the issuance of warrants
18 for search and seizure of personal property; and

1 WHEREAS, Our duly elected representatives within the Federal
2 Government have taken no steps toward responding to or
3 questioning the actions of the NSA; and

4 WHEREAS, The actions of domestic spying and broad electronic
5 surveillance by the NSA pose a major breach and violation of
6 fourth amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold
9 these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,
10 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable
11 Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of
12 Happiness."; and

13 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence also states, "That
14 whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these
15 ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish
16 it..."; and

17 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives believes a broad-based
18 dragnet seizure and storage of every individual citizen's
19 private electronic data is a violation of the fourth amendment
20 to the Constitution of the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Such a violation is intolerable to the people of
22 this Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, It is the duty and responsibility of our duly
24 elected Federal representatives to act appropriately on behalf
25 of the people to stop this gross violation of fourth amendment
26 rights; and

27 WHEREAS, It is the duty and responsibility of officials
28 within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to deliberate and, if so
29 determined, to echo the people's desire for an end to domestic
30 spying; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemns the
2 actions of the Federal Government and the National Security
3 Agency in engaging in illegal domestic surveillance in violation
4 of the rights of the citizens of this Commonwealth.