



Ramola D <ramolad1@gmail.com>

Reply from Senator Markey

U.S. Senator Markey <senator@markey.senate.gov>
To: ramolad1@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 12, 2014 at 3:31 PM

EDWARD J. MARKEY
MASSACHUSETTS218 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742**United States Senate**

March 12, 2014

Dear Ramola:

Thank you for writing me about the privacy rights of Americans. It was good to hear from you.

The use of covert intelligence is a critical issue for the United States, and I am grateful that concerned citizens such as yourself are making your thoughts known. While I serving as a member of the House of Representatives and now in the Senate, I work tirelessly to defend the right to privacy for all Americans and serve as the co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Privacy Caucus with Congressman Joe Barton of Texas, which seeks to educate members of Congress on matters of individual privacy, as well as the notice and disclosure of the collection or use of personal information by companies or the government.

In the Senate, I will continue working with my colleagues to enact surveillance reforms and fight to protect our constitutional rights to privacy. I have recently expanded my investigation of law enforcement requests for mobile phone information about American consumers. Last year, my accounting, the first of its kind by a member of Congress, revealed that federal, state and local law enforcement agencies made 1.3 million requests for information about Americans' mobile phone use. This year, [my investigation](#) found similarly astounding results. As law enforcement uses new technology to protect the public from harm, we also must protect the information of innocent Americans from misuse. My investigation has provided a more detailed picture of what and how data is collected by law enforcement on Americans. I plan to introduce legislation to ensure Americans sensitive information is protected.

I understand your concerns regarding recent revelations about the National Security Agency's (NSA) monitoring of digital and cellular data. We are currently facing a difficult balance between preserving our right to privacy and protecting our national security. I understand the need for surveillance of suspected terrorists as part of an effective defense strategy, but we also need to protect American citizens from unlawful compromising of personal data.

That's why I am proud to cosponsor (S.1599), Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ending Eavesdropping, Dragnet-collection, and Online Monitoring Act introduced by my colleague, Senator Leahy of Vermont. This important piece of legislation will rein in the dragnet collection of data by the NSA by increasing transparency of The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and imposing safeguards against bulk data collection. I will continue to closely monitor our intelligence operations and will be a strong voice for constitutional protections of privacy.

Thank you again for contacting me about this issue. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. To sign up for my newsletter, visit <http://www.markey.senate.gov/newsletter>. You can also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator