



Ethical Action Report



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Civil Liberties: Support the JUSTICE Act (S. 1686)

Write to your senators and ask them to support the Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools In Counterterrorism Efforts (JUSTICE) Act, which would rein in the worst excesses of the PATRIOT and FISA Amendments Act.

BACKGROUND

On December 31, three provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act are set to expire. These sections include the John Doe roving wiretap provision, the “library records” provision and the “lone wolf” provision--all of which allowed greater government surveillance of US citizens and threatened privacy rights.

The Senate recently introduced the JUSTICE Act to rein in these overbroad provisions for government surveillance by inserting privacy and civil liberties safeguards into each law. This needed legislation would amend the National Security Letter provision of the PATRIOT Act by requiring meaningful judicial review and establishing individualized suspicion. It would also repeal immunity for telephone companies that aided the Bush administration in its illegal wiretapping program. Write to your senators and ask them to support this vital legislation today.

E Pluribus Unum: Restore “Out of Many, One” as our National Motto

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and voice your support for restoring E Pluribus Unum as our national motto.

BACKGROUND

E Pluribus Unum (Latin for "Out of Many, One") was the original national motto chosen by the Founding Fathers, adopted in 1782 to be included in the new country's Great Seal. E Pluribus Unum is an excellent motto for our nation, because it reflects both the federal nature of our government (out of many states, one country) and the melting pot character of our population (out of many people, one nation).

Although in 1956, at the height of the Cold War and McCarthyism, the official national motto “In God We Trust” was adopted, E Pluribus Unum still perfectly reflects the spirit of inclusion and unity that was intended by the nation’s founders. Please write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and voice your support for our original de facto motto, and urge others to recognize the place E Pluribus Unum has had in our nation’s history.

End Workplace Discrimination: Support the Employment Non Discrimination Act (H.R. 2981 and S. 1584)

Please write to your senators and representative in Congress and ask them to support ENDA, the Employment Non Discrimination Act, which would prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual and gender identity.

BACKGROUND

Many gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender Americans are discriminated against in the workplace every year, and although some states have prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual or gender identity, there still is no federal prohibition on this kind of discrimination.

No one should fear losing their job or being passed over for promotion or an employment position because of who they are, and individuals who work hard should be rewarded based on that merit. That's why we already have laws against discrimination on the basis of race, sex and religion. It's high time to pass legislation that protects GLBT Americans as well.

Although some people have criticized ENDA for giving "special rights" to the GLBT community, the ability to work is not a special right. Please write to your senators and representative in Congress and ask them to support ENDA today.

Support the Youth PROMISE Act Today! (H.R. 1064 and S. 435)

Please write to your senators and representative in Congress and ask them to support the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act.

BACKGROUND

For too long, community responses to gangs and youth violence have been geared towards incarceration rather than addressing underlying root causes. This is a failed policy that doesn't do anything to reduce youth crime, yet puts more and more children behind bars each year.

It's time to pursue approaches that are effective and proactive. We need prevention and intervention so youth crime doesn't happen in the first place. That's where the Youth PROMISE Act fits in. The legislation, which has been introduced in both chambers in Congress with bipartisan support, would give at-risk communities the prevention resources they need to decrease juvenile delinquency and gang activity. Please write to your senators and representative in Congress today and urge them to support this legislation.

Participate in the International Day of Climate Action

On October 24th people all over the world will stand up for climate change action. Please go to www.350.org and find an action near you. If there is not one near you, create one.

BACKGROUND

As world leaders prepare for the Copenhagen Summit where a successor to the Kyoto Protocol will be hammered out, people everywhere are gathering to send a message and demand action to cap CO₂ concentrations at 350 parts per million. Please participate.

Contacting Elected Officials

<p style="text-align: center;">Congress</p> <p><i>Mailing Address</i> United States Senate <i>Or</i> U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515</p> <p><i>Phone Number</i> Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121</p> <p><i>E-mail</i> Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.</p>	
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American Ethical Union ▪ 2 West 64th Street ▪ New York, NY 10023
<http://aeu.org>

American Humanist Association ▪ 1777 T Street, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20009
www.americanhumanist.org

<p style="text-align: center;">Editor: Karen Frantz (800) 837-3792 report@americanhumanist.org rlkiniry@sbcglobal.net, report@aeu.org</p>
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To share your views on national legislation with the Secular Coalition for America (SCA) go to
www.secular.org.