Dear Member of Congress,

We urge you to include the Leahy-Lee Amendment – the FISA Amici Curiae Reform Act of 2022 – in any final spending bill of this Congress.

The path to inclusion is a smooth one. In May 2020 this measure received 77 votes on the Senate floor when offered as an amendment to the USA Freedom Reauthorization Act. This overwhelming, bipartisan support reflects the common-sense recognition of the need for the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) to have access to independent advice on civil liberties when the government seeks to spy on domestic media, religious, political, and other particularly sensitive groups.

Leahy-Lee would strengthen and expand the role of the independent amici who appear before the secret FISA Court in these sensitive cases. It would safeguard Americans’ First Amendment rights by empowering the Court with the advice of amici when the government seeks to use FISA surveillance in such sensitive investigative matters.

Expert amici are the only representatives the public has before the FISC, even though these court decisions may address surveillance programs that affect the privacy of millions of Americans. Inclusion of the Leahy-Lee Amendment is an important step in preventing recurrences of surveillance abuses that are a matter of concern for leaders and citizens in both parties.

We urge you to balance the needs of national security with expert legal advice to represent the public interest in secret surveillance.

Please support the inclusion of Leahy-Lee in any final spending bill of this Congress.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
Americans for Prosperity
Arab American Institute
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Brennan Center for Justice
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for Security, Race and Rights
CommonDefense.us
Constitutional Alliance
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress Action
Due Process Institute
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
Fight for the Future
Free Press Action
FreedomWorks
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Government Accountability Project
Government Information Watch
Islamophobia Studies Center
Just Foreign policy
Media Alliance
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Security Counselors
New America's Open Technology Institute
Oakland Privacy
OCA Greater Chicago
OpenMedia
PEN America
Poligon Education Fund
Project for Privacy & Surveillance Accountability
Restore The Fourth
RootsAction.org
Secure Justice
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
TechFreedom
Wikimedia Foundation
Woodhull Freedom Foundation
X-Lab
Yemeni Alliance Committee