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SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO



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Resolution Urging Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi to Oppose any Attempts to Expand the Patriot Act, to Prevent the Reauthorization of any Patriot Act Provisions, and to Allow Patriot Act Provisions to Expire

WHEREAS, the USA Patriot Act was enacted a mere 45 days after the September 11 attacks; and, at the time of enactment, Congress overwhelmingly voted to make certain Patriot Act provisions subject to review and expiration; and provided that 10% of the Act would expire at sunset December 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Act's provisions radically curtail the fundamental checks and balances needed to prevent abuses by federal law enforcement through revision of the nation's surveillance laws, expansion of the government's authority to spy on its own citizens, decreasing judicial oversight; and

WHEREAS, the Act's provisions significantly weakened standard constitutional protections including the Fourteenth Amendment right to due process; the Fourth Amendment right to privacy; the First Amendment freedoms of speech, religion, and the press; and

WHEREAS, under current provisions of the Act, the government can conduct "sneak and peak" searches of homes without any notification, get a list of books obtained by any citizen through the local library or bookstore, seek criminal prosecution of anyone failing to comply with the Act even if compliance means the violation of constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not demonstrated whether such activities deter terrorism and the Department of Justice has not provided specific details to the public on how the Patriot Act provisions have been implemented and used,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO demands Congress engage in a full and open debate of the provisions scheduled to sunset as well as all other provisions of the Act that expand federal powers at the expense of constitutional rights, oppose any attempts to expand Patriot Act provisions, to prevent the reauthorization of the provisions scheduled to sunset and to let such provisions expire, and restore and protect our traditional system of checks and balances, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO demands that any modification of powers in the Patriot Act are for the increased protection of civil liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and demands Congress ensure that all Patriot Act provisions which violate the Constitution be struck from the Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, communicate this resolution to the California State Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO, and urge the nine County Bay Area CLC's to immediately move to adopt this resolution.

Submitted by Denis Mosgofian, on behalf of the SFLC Patriot Act Committee, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on June 13, 2005.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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