

Issue: Is the Patriot Act effective.

Thesis: The Patriot Act is a necessary tool for helping protect citizens, give cyber protection, and it's fair because the way the United States government is set up.

Introduction

General Keith Alexander, the director of the National Security Agency (NSA), reported to the House Intelligence Committee on June 18 that the surveillance programs revealed by Edward Snowden have helped prevent 54 terrorist plots against the United States and its allies. (McCutcheon, 2013) (Evidence: statistic)

I. The Patriot act helps protect citizens.

A. Section 218 allows investigators from different fields to share information with each other. (McNeill, 2009)(Justice.gov, paragraph 6)(Ratical.org, paragraph 6)

1. Back in 2001, the FBI received intel regarding possible criminal activity and foreign terrorism. Before the Patriot Act, the FBI wasn't allowed to pursue two different cases at once. With help from the Patriot Act, drug and counter terrorist investigators were able to exchange intel which helped them prevent the Lackawanna Six plot in 2002. (NPR.org, 2005), (McNeill, 2009)

B. Section 220 allows for investigators to obtain a search warrant in order to get investigate from service providers outside of their district. (Martinez, 2005)

1. As stated by Steven M. Martinez, with section 220, an FBI office in Pittsburgh was able to obtain a warrant in order to investigate a computer in California. Their investigation helped them rescue "a teenage girl who was being sexually tortured in Virginia while being chained to a wall in somebody's basement." (Martinez, 2005) The man who was responsible has been put in prison and the girl's life is saved.

C. According to Dina Temple-Raston and Richard Horowitz, section 206 of the Patriot Act allows for "roving wiretaps" which requires a court order, so that law enforcement can wiretap a specific person instead of just a phone number. (Temple-Raston, 2009)(Horowitz, paragraph 8)

1. Dina Temple-Raston reports that in 2009, Najibullah Zazi was arrested because he was planning to use a bomb on a New York City Subway. He had received training from an al-Qaida camp in Pakistan learning how to create explosives. The FBI was able to follow him using roving wiretaps from section 206 from the Patriot Act. They were following his cell phones, emails and text messages. The FBI heard one of his conversations "about chemical mixtures for explosives." (Temple-Raston) FBI also followed him on his cross-country trip. The FBI used the "sneak and peek" provision of the Patriot Act to search his car when he wasn't there, and they found instructions for making a bomb.

With section 206 and the “sneak and peek” provisions of the Patriot Act, law enforcement were able to prevent Najibullah Zazi from killing innocent people on a Subway.

II. The Patriot Act provides cyber security.

A. According to Ellen S. Podgor and GPO.gov, Section 816 of the Patriot Act, titled “DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF CYBERSECURITY FORENSIC CAPABILITIES,” establishes computer forensic laboratories in order to train and educate law enforcement to be able to prevent criminal activity including cyber terrorism. (Podgor, 2002)(GPO, 2001)

1. Becket Adams reported in his article, “The NSA Claims It Foiled a Foreign Plot to Destroy the U.S. Economy,” that a senior National Security Agency official said that the federal government prevented an attack that might have collapsed the United States economy. On December 16, 2013, there was a cyber attack that could have blocked computers across the country. Adams writes, “considering how closely U.S. infrastructure and Wall Street are connected to computers, a massive cyber attack could lead to disaster for the U.S. and global economy.” (Adams, 2013)

B. Section 814 of the Patriot Act, “Prohibits damaging through hacking a government computer,” summarized by Richard Horowitz.

1. “The U.S. Government Accountability Office found that cyber-security incidents reported by federal agencies have risen 800 percent since 2006.” (Saginor, 2013)(Evidence: Statistic)

C. <http://library.cqpress.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqresrre2013021500&PHPSESSID=vqh49jvkuhhh91q8opc8qvdiij3#.Uwm0g3k-pBU>

<http://library.cqpress.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/cqweekly/document.php?id=weeklyreport113-000004395011>

III. The Patriot Act is fair because of the way that the United States Government is set up.

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B. <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/3553>

1.http://www.nbcnews.com/id/20999950/ns/us_news-security/t/judge-rules-part-patriot-act-unconstitutional/#.Uwp9JHk-pBU

http://nationalparalegal.edu/public_documents/courseware_asp_files/criminalLaw/otherAgainstPersons/FalseImprisonment.asp

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