



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Shuler Statement on House Passed FISA Legislation

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Heath Shuler released the following statement today after the House passed, H.R. 6034, The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments Act of 2008.

“The FISA legislation passed by the House today strikes the important balance between protecting our nation from new and evolving terrorist threats, while also safeguarding our civil liberties. I am glad that after working for nearly a year on this legislation, Democrats and Republicans came together to achieve a positive, long term solution.

“This legislation improves the civil liberties protections in the original FISA by specifying that individual warrants are required to conduct surveillance on Americans residing inside or outside of the United States, and outlaws the practice of reverse-targeting. It also affirms that FISA is the only means available to the U.S. government to conduct surveillance.

“The bill we passed today does not provide retroactive blanket immunity for warrantless wiretapping. Instead, it requires any telecommunications company that provided information to the Department of Justice following the attacks of September 11th to prove in Federal court that this information was demanded by Federal agencies and that the Department of Justice provided written assurance that its actions were legal.

“Courts will not have the discretion to provide any immunity for government officials who have violated the law. This requirement will ensure that the truth will finally come out in open court, and that any government official who broke the law will be held fully accountable.”

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