

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 18, 2013

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Changes to House Cybersecurity Bill Not Enough to Safeguard Privacy

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sharon Bradford Franklin, senior policy counsel at The Constitution Project, offered the following comments expressing disappointment about today's adoption of H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), by the U.S. House of Representatives:

"CISPA creates significant threats to Americans' civil liberties by allowing companies to share vast quantities of personal information from private computer networks with the government. Although the final version of the bill incorporates some last-minute improvements in privacy safeguards, including an amendment to promote the role of civilian government agencies, Congress still needs to work carefully to get this right. Congress must take the civil liberties threats posed by a cybersecurity information sharing program as seriously as it takes the cyberthreats the legislation seeks to address."

The House voted 288-127 to pass the bill. The Obama administration has threatened to veto the legislation because of concerns about its lack of privacy safeguards.

The bill would allow the government to provide otherwise potentially restricted information about cyberthreats to private sector companies, and would in turn facilitate private companies -- such as Facebook, Google or internet service providers -- sharing information about their networks, possibly including sensitive personal information or the content of emails, with federal authorities.

TCP's Liberty and Security Committee released its [Recommendations for the Implementation of a Comprehensive and Constitutional Cybersecurity Policy](#) in 2012.

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[About The Constitution Project](#)

Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.



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