



Intellectual Freedom Champion of the Year - 2014: Senator Ron Wyden

The Oregon Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee has selected Senator Ron Wyden as the recipient of the 2014 Intellectual Freedom Champion of the Year award. This award is conferred to recognize “the contribution made by an individual or institution that has actively promoted or defended intellectual freedom in Oregon.” Senator Ron Wyden was selected as the 2014 recipient in recognition of his forceful and sustained campaign to defend the privacy rights of individuals from government surveillance.

Privacy is a cornerstone of intellectual freedom. Libraries operate according to the core value that all people have the right to access information and ideas without anyone scrutinizing their personal inquiries. Democracy requires free access to ideas, unburdened by the fear that those inquiries are being secretly tracked by other individuals, corporations or government agencies. In an era when new technologies have brought unprecedented opportunities for digital surveillance, Senator Wyden has emerged as a vigorous and effective national leader in support of privacy.

Senator Wyden was one of only ten senators to vote against the reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act in 2006. He has emerged as one of Congress’s most forceful opponents to NSA surveillance. As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Wyden has worked relentlessly to reform the Patriot Act and FISA court operations and to require greater transparency from the intelligence community. *The Atlantic* calls Senator Wyden “[The Lonely Hero of the Battle Against the Surveillance State](#).” Senator Wyden's consistent message has been that security and liberty are not mutually exclusive.

Learn more about Senator Wyden’s sustained defense of personal privacy from digital surveillance:

- Timeline of Senator Wyden’s public efforts to protect the privacy and intellectual freedom of U.S. citizens: <http://www.wyden.senate.gov/priorities/secret-law>
- Interview of Senator Wyden by Janet Reitman about NSA surveillance and government transparency in *Rolling Stone*, August 15, 2013: <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/q-a-senator-ron-wyden-on-nsa-surveillance-and-government-transparency-20130815>
- Article describing Senator Wyden as “The Lonely Hero of the Battle Against the Surveillance State” in *The Atlantic*, Oct. 23, 2013: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/10/ron-wyden-the-lonely-hero-of-the-battle-against-the-surveillance-state/280782/>

- PBS News interview with Senator Wyden on balancing the ‘teeter-totter’ of security and liberty Dec. 13, 2013 (8 minutes):
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/government_programs-july-dec13-nsa2_12-13/
- Senator Wyden’s speech about domestic data collection and privacy rights at the Center for American Progress Action Fund, July 23, 2013 (1 hour)
<http://www.wyden.senate.gov/news/blog/post/wyden-on-nsa-domestic-surveillance>
- *Oregonian* article about Senator Wyden’s “jousts” with intelligence agencies, January 07, 2014:
http://www.oregonlive.com/mapes/index.ssf/2013/06/with_verizon_surveillance_case.html

A sample of 2013-2014 legislation related to the protection of privacy and intellectual freedom sponsored or cosponsored by Senator Wyden (for complete descriptions of the following legislation and a complete list of legislation sponsored or cosponsored by Senator Wyden, go to Congress.gov):

- S.1981 - Open Internet Preservation Act of 2014
Restores rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the Report and Order in the matter of preserving the open Internet and broadband industry practices (adopted on December 21, 2010) that were vacated by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Verizon v. Federal Communications Commission* (decided on January 14, 2014).
- S.1701 - Freedoms and Privacy Act of 2013
Amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA), with respect to provisions governing the use and disclosure of information obtained under such Act, to require:
 - the application of rules for the use in court proceedings of classified information under the Classified Information Procedures Act to information acquired from electronic surveillance, physical searches, and pen registers and trap and trace devices under FISA;
 - notification to an aggrieved person under FISA of all information that has been collected and used in an investigation relevant to a FISA criminal proceeding, including information not intended to be entered into evidence;
 - a FISA court to provide a defendant with information that was used to obtain an order (and a copy of such order) authorizing: (1) surveillance of such defendant or another aggrieved person, (2) physical searches, or (3) the use of pen registers and trap and trace devices;
 - the Attorney General, or a designee of the Attorney General who was appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to certify in writing the basis for authorizing disclosure of FISA-related information, including information from targets outside the United States, for law enforcement purposes (other than for international terrorism or clandestine intelligence investigations);
 - the collection of foreign intelligence information to be the primary purpose (currently, a significant purpose) of a FISA court warrant application;

- the Attorney General to make available to all Members of Congress every six months a report on FISA information shared between the intelligence community and law enforcement and summaries of investigations and criminal proceedings using such shared information; and
 - the Attorney General to make available to all Members of Congress: (1) standard minimization procedures (i.e., specific procedures to minimize the retention, and prohibit the dissemination, of information concerning unconsenting U.S. persons consistent with the need to obtain, produce, and disseminate foreign intelligence information) applied to the acquisition, retention, use, and dissemination of information; and (2) annual reports setting forth a review and justification of all standard minimization procedures.
- S.1452 - Surveillance Transparency Act of 2013
Amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA) to expand government reporting requirements with respect to surveillance programs under FISA and the USA PATRIOT Act. Permits persons (any individual, including any officer or employee of the federal government, or any group, entity, association, corporation, or foreign power) receiving certain production orders to make public disclosures regarding the categories of orders to which they complied and the total number of users whose information was produced.
- S.1426 - Password Protection Act of 2013
Amends the federal criminal code to subject to a fine any employer who knowingly and intentionally: (1) compels or coerces any person to provide the employer with a password or similar information to access a protected computer not owned by such employer; or (2) discharges, disciplines, discriminates, or threatens to take such actions, against any person who fails to authorize access to such computer, has filed a complaint or instituted a proceeding regarding such action, or testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding.
- S.1467 - FISA Court Reform Act of 2013
Establishes as an independent establishment in the executive branch an Office of the Special Advocate to protect individual rights by advocating in cases before courts established by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA) in support of legal interpretations that minimize the scope of surveillance and the extent of data collection and retention.