

Dear Honorable ():

Many residents of Los Altos, California, have expressed concerns the constitutionality of various provisions of the US Patriot Act, P.L. 107-56 ("Act"). While our City generally does not take position on items that are normally of national concern, we do feel it appropriate to do so when there is a significant local impact.

After a detailed analysis of the Act, our experienced and capable Police Chief has expressed concern that there are two sections of the Act which he finds most troubling as it relates to our City: Sections 215 and 219 regarding obtaining records without a warrant, and secret searches.

Based on his expressed concerns, and the concerns expressed by others of our City, the City Council of Los Altos, California, has unanimously requested that you and your colleagues in the Congress take a prompt and critical look at whether the powers granted to law enforcement authorities by the Act are too broad, lack judicial oversight, and thus are subject to misuse. We are concerned that our residents, citizens and legal aliens not lose some of the protections of the First Amendment and Fourth Amendment rights out of fear of being incorrectly categorized as terrorist supporters.

While we remain sensitive to the events of September 11, 2001, even New York City itself has expressed grave concerns about similar provisions of the Act. None of us should lose sight of the fact that over the generations, this great county has had many true patriots who have lost their lives defending the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights in our Constitution. We need to be concerned that those rights are not eroded for all in order to apprehend a few.

While we understand how difficult it is to think critically during traumatic times, we ask for such thinking now. We ask that you consider, and correct if appropriate, the constitutional encroachments in the Act as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,

John Moss

Mayor