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## **REYES ANTICIPATES PASSAGE OF FISA AMENDMENTS ACT**

**Washington, DC** - House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) released the following statement on the bipartisan compromise on H.R. 6304, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Amendments of 2008:

“Tomorrow the House will consider a bipartisan, bicameral bill to repeal the Protect America Act and replace it with vital national security legislation that modernizes and strengthens the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) while protecting Americans’ constitutional rights.

“Intelligence is the first line of defense in our nation’s efforts to prevent terrorism and stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This legislation strengthens the ability of our intelligence agencies to conduct lawful surveillance of foreign terrorists and other foreign agents overseas whose electronic communications may pass through the United States.

“But this legislation also serves another vital function. It strengthens the constitutional rights of Americans, protects them from unlawful surveillance, and stops this President – or any President – from invoking executive power to conduct warrantless surveillance of Americans.

“We have previously said that the President’s warrantless surveillance program violated FISA’s provisions requiring a court order. Nothing in this legislation changes that assessment. This legislation assures the American people that he, or any future President, can never do that again.”