



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
United States Representative

Re: Safeguarding Americans' Private Records Act of 2020 (S. 3242 / H.R. 5675)

Dear Senator Wyden and Representative Lofgren,

On behalf of the American Library Association, I write to express our appreciation for your interest in reforming surveillance authorities in the Safeguarding Americans' Private Records Act of 2020, S. 3242 and H.R. 5675. We are concerned that the current reach of these authorities imperils Americans' exercise of First Amendment rights.

In particular, we appreciate the goal of the legislation in Section 401 to reform National Security Letter authorities. These authorities have previously been used by the U.S. Justice Department to attempt to access information about patrons' library use; *see Doe v. Gonzales*, 386 F. Supp. 2d 66 (D. Conn. 2005). We support reform of National Security Letter authorities to protect Americans' freedom to read from unjustified intrusion.

In addition, we appreciate the goal of greater protection for internet browsing and search history through a warrant requirement as suggested in Section 103 of the bill. Reading, browsing, and similar information-seeking activities in libraries are sensitive First Amendment activities and should not be subject to ready government intrusion.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Americans' freedom to read from warranted intrusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin R. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gavin R. Baker
Deputy Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
American Library Association