

Congressional Democrats are playing a dangerous game by allowing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to expire this weekend. [National Review](#) and the [Washington Post](#), true to form, offer excellent analysis and coverage of this critical national security issue.

The Editors of *National Review* published an article yesterday: "[Dems' Dangerous FISA Games](#)".

*Here is the bottom line: The legal authority for the United States intelligence community to collect foreign intelligence — information that protects Americans from terrorist attacks and that our soldiers in harm's way rely on to do their duty — will expire at midnight on Friday. And Democrats are perfectly willing to allow that to happen.*

*Not all of them, thankfully. A few responsible Democrats in the Senate have come together with Republicans and the White House on an intelligence overhaul. President Bush stresses the proposal's growing bipartisan support, but no one should go up in a balloon over that. The very fact that it attracted such broad support from Senate Democrats — the same folks who have blocked sensible reform up until now, and who fought reauthorization for the Patriot Act tooth and nail — signals that our enthusiasm should be tempered. To call the proposal imperfect is to be charitable.*

*Yet House Democrats — doing the bidding of the MoveOn.org crowd — are courting just that risk. They are playing roulette with our security for no better reason than to preserve the ability of the ACLU, CAIR, and other anti-Bush activists to press their lawsuits. And the [Director of National Intelligence](#), Mike McConnell [wrote today](#) in the [Washington Post](#):*

*One of the most critical weapons in the fight against terrorists and other foreign intelligence threats -- the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) -- has not kept up with the technology revolution we have experienced over the past 30 years. We are on the brink of bringing this 20th-century tool in line with 21st-century technology and threats. The Senate has passed a strong bill, by an overwhelmingly bipartisan margin, that would modernize FISA and do the right thing for those companies that responded to their country's call for assistance in its hour of need. It would also protect the civil liberties we Americans cherish. The bill is now before the House of Representatives*

*[The Protect America Act](#) was scheduled to expire Feb. 1, but Congress passed [a 15-day extension](#) to give itself the time lawmakers said was necessary to complete work on legislation to modernize FISA and address liability protection.*

*President Bush*

*signed that extension, but the law will expire tomorrow unless Congress acts again.*

[Capitol Briefing](#) has [more](#).

[President Bush](#) also decried this move as [endangering the United States](#).

*Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney met with Republican congressional leaders in the Oval Office to discuss the impasse with the Democratic-led House. Lawmakers left Thursday for a 12-day recess without acting on the law, which expires at midnight Saturday. The president said Congress should act quickly on the measure as soon as lawmakers return.*

*"American citizens must understand, clearly understand that there's still a threat on the homeland. There's still an enemy which would like to do us harm," Bush said. "We've got to give our professionals the tools they need, to be able to figure out what the enemy is up to so we can stop it."*

*"By blocking this piece of legislation, our country is more in danger of an attack," he said.*

[Congressman Pence](#) 's position on FISA has been clear as evidenced [here](#) and [here](#) .