



## **STOP** **The Violent Radicalization** **& Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act**

### **“Homegrown Terrorism” Bills Threaten Liberties by:**

- ***NORMALIZING THE CONCEPT OF “THOUGHT CRIME.”*** This bill’s focus on future terrorist acts may be used to justify collection of information about U.S. persons without evidence of wrongdoing. Groups selected by the commission for study might not be involved in criminal activity, but can still be branded as “homegrown terrorists.”
- ***TARGETING INNOCENT PEOPLE.*** The bill creates a commission whose study may target certain groups as possible terrorists, just as the FBI has done since 9/11, which resulted in arrests and sting operations conducted in Muslim and Arab communities in the United States.
- ***CREATING A COMMITTEE WITH UNCLEAR SCOPE.*** The committee that this bill establishes would not be limited to studying violence. It would also study groups that use, plan, or threaten to use “force” to “intimidate or coerce the United States government ... in furtherance of political or social objectives.”
- ***USING AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE.*** This bill does not define “extremist belief system,” leaving it open to political interpretation. As Reagan’s Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Paul Craig Thomas, asked, “Who will be on the ‘extremist beliefs’ list?”

### **H.R. 1955 passed the House 404-6.**

The Senate version (S 1959) will be much easier to stop, if it never reaches the Senate floor. Here’s our chance to stop it in committee!

### **What You Can Do:**

- Visit the BORDC Legislation page for more information about H.R. 1955 and S. 1959. <http://bordc.org/threats/legislation/index.php#intelligence>
- Contact members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to stop S 1959 from getting to the Senate floor for a vote. <http://hsgac.senate.gov/index.cfm?Fuseaction=About.Membership>
- Contact your senators to stop the bill from becoming law. <http://visi.com/juan/congress/> Set up a community meeting with your senators or their aides to discuss this legislation! Members of Congress will be in their home districts between February 16 and 24.