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Dear Mayor O'Neill and Members of the Long Beach City Council:

I applaud you for considering a Resolution in Support of Constitutional Protections For the Residents of Long Beach.

The terrorist attacks on our country on September 11, 2001 made it clear the United States must keep pace with a changing and dangerous world. With the threat of terrorism painfully real, it is important that we arm our intelligence agents and law enforcement officers with the tools and resources they need to keep us safe. Indeed, there are portions of the Patriot Act that reasonably enhance those tools and resources and allow for the better sharing of information across intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

However, in our drive to increase the effectiveness of our intelligence and federal law enforcement agencies, it is also important that we not violate our key American principles of freedom and due process.

In my work on the House Judiciary Committee, which oversees portions of the Patriot Act, I have become concerned with the lack of due process, judicial oversight, and accountability with our intelligence and federal law enforcement agencies. New methods, such as "sneak and peek" and secret library searches are troubling when there is little or no judicial oversight or due process involved with their implementation. Also troubling is the recent move by the Administration to make all provisions of the Patriot Act permanent.

The character of our nation demands that we unite in the war against terror, while simultaneously safeguarding the freedoms and rights we cherish. I commend the Long Beach City Council for considering this resolution.

Sincerely,



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress