November 12, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the President, we urge you to reauthorize Title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including Section 702, no later than December 9, 2026. Any delays beyond this date will risk this critical authority lapsing, putting the lives of both Americans in the homeland and our troops stationed abroad at risk in the heightened threat environment briefed to the Gang of 8 earlier this week.

As you know, Section 702 is the single most indispensable tool we have to keep our homeland and the American people safe. It enables our Intelligence Community to detect and disrupt terrorist plots, cyber intrusions, and weapons proliferation. No other authority can replace it. Because the underlying statutory authority lapsed earlier this year, collection continues only under existing certifications that will expire March 16, 2027. To prevent a gap in critical intelligence, the government must start the 2027 renewal process no later than December 9, 2026.

The December 9 date stems from the statutory and judicial review process:

- *Court review.* While the rules of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) permit a seven-day read copy filing, long-standing precedent requires the Department of Justice to submit draft certifications at least 30 days in advance.
- *Filing.* The signed certifications must be filed by January 8, 2027, 30 days after December 9.
- *Amicus review.* Under the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, the Court generally appoints amici, which extends its review to 60 days or more.
- *FISC order.* Reauthorization by December 9 is necessary for the FISC to issue an order authorizing Section 702 collection by March 9, 2027—a week before current collection ends.

Collection under existing certifications will expire March 16, 2027, if Congress does not act by December 9. To prevent a gap in critical intelligence and avoid putting our nation at risk, the government must start the 2027 renewal process by then. If collection stops, we cannot simply turn 702 back on. The Administration looks forward to briefing Congress again in the coming days on the irreplaceable intelligence enabled by Section 702 and the dire risks to our nation if it is allowed to expire.

Sincerely,

Todd Blanche
Attorney General

Jay Clayton
Director of National Intelligence

John Ratcliffe
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency