



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD RELEASES REPORT ON FISA SECTION 702

WASHINGTON, DC – The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) on Thursday released its *2026 Report on the Surveillance Program Operated Pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*. Section 702 authorizes the government to target non-U.S. persons located outside the United States in order to collect foreign intelligence information. The program is set to expire on April 20, 2026 unless Congress reauthorizes it.

The 2026 PCLOB staff report concludes that Section 702 remains one of the country’s most valuable tools for countering an array of critical foreign threats, and the reforms implemented since 2023 are having positive privacy and civil liberties effects.

The report focuses specifically on changes to the program since 2023, including those mandated by Congress in the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America (RISAA) of April 2024.

The report assesses that Section 702 continues to provide vital information to America’s leaders. In 2025, 63% of the articles in the President’s Daily Brief, the update given to the President about the most serious threats to the nation, contained Section 702 information reported by the National Security Agency. Information from the program has been used to capture foreign terrorists, to defend against cyber and other attacks on critical infrastructure, and to interdict illegal international narcotics trafficking.

The report details key metrics indicating that stricter privacy and civil liberties protections, especially for U.S. persons, are having their intended effect. The Intelligence Community’s targeting compliance rates remain above 99.8%, meaning that the relevant agencies are collecting foreign intelligence information consistent with the law and with court-approved procedures. U.S. person queries by the FBI have declined steeply, by approximately 87%, from 57,094 in 2023 to 7,413 in 2025.

“I congratulate our professional staff on the timely completion of this critical report,” Board Member Beth A. Williams said. “Although there has not yet been sufficient time to know for certain that the reforms are having their intended effect, the improvements we have seen are significant and positive for privacy and civil liberties.”

The report calls out several concerns, including that the steep decline of queries may indicate that personnel are being overly deterred from utilizing the tool, potentially failing to identify national security threats. It also notes that the process by which the Intelligence Community conducts travel vetting of non-U.S. persons to the United States has not fundamentally changed post-RISAA.

In preparing this report, PCLOB conducted a comprehensive review of recent changes made to the program, requested and received an extensive amount of classified and unclassified material from the Intelligence Community, and asked numerous rounds of questions. This is PCLOB's third report reviewing the Section 702 program in a span of twelve years.

The full unclassified version of the 2026 report is available at www.pclob.gov. A classified version of the report has been made available to the White House, relevant Executive Branch agencies, and to Congress.

For further information, please contact Public and Legislative Affairs Director Alan Silverleib at info@pclob.gov or pao@pclob.gov.

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The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an independent agency within the Executive Branch established by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. The Board's mission is to ensure that the federal government's efforts to prevent terrorism are balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties.