



## **Rep. Nadler Introduces Bill to Stop Companies, Like GM, from Hiding Safety Flaws**

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, a veteran member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, re-introduced the *Sunshine in Litigation Act*. This legislation would prevent companies, such as General Motors, from concealing evidence of wrongdoing that puts our public health and safety at risk.

“For years, America’s number one automaker, General Motors, was able to hide a defect in its cars which lead to at least 13 deaths. A company should not be allowed to use courtroom settlements to keep lifesaving information from the public,” said Congressman Nadler. “Current federal court rules make it too easy for defendants subject to lawsuits to protect their profits over saving lives. Were there a requirement to inform the public about a product’s deadly safety flaws, we would have been able to save lives and GM’s manufacturing mistake would have been corrected much sooner.”

Major corporations and manufacturers use protective orders to broadly shield vast amounts of information, vital to health and safety, from public scrutiny. Defendants also often require, as part of settlement agreements, that documents or other records revealing critical dangers uncovered during litigation be kept secret.

“As early as 2005, GM reached settlements with victims that required the parties to keep the issues confidential. If the critical safety information had been disclosed to the public, as would be required by the *Sunshine in Litigation Act*, many lives likely would have been saved,” said Congressman Nadler.

## **Rep. Nadler: House Judiciary Committee Should Act on Sensenbrenner-Conyers FISA Reform Bill and Reject Rogers-Ruppersberger Bill**

On March 26th, the House Parliamentarian referred H.R. 4291, the “FISA Transparency and Modernization Act of 2014,” to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, with a secondary referral to the House Judiciary Committee. The lead sponsors of H.R. 4291 are House Intelligence Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) and Ranking Member Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD). Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the House Judiciary Committee has been the Committee of primary jurisdiction for reform of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), a veteran member of the House Judiciary Committee, released the following statement:

“As we move forward on FISA reform, I continue to endorse the approach taken in the Sensenbrenner-Conyers (USA FREEDOM) Act, which, among other reforms, ends the bulk and indiscriminate collection of data and restores our intent that data collection be done only with individualized suspicion and judicial

supervision. The Rogers-Ruppersberger bill, now before the House Intelligence Committee, fails to adequately ensure either. While I am heartened by what I have heard about the President's proposal, the specific details remain unclear and will require close examination. And as the Congress does so, the House Judiciary Committee must be the primary Committee at the center of this reform.

"The House Judiciary Committee, not the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, has always been the primary forum to debate the appropriate scope of government surveillance. This Committee has long taken the lead, and held responsibility, for ensuring that our national security needs do not trump our core Constitutional freedoms. I am deeply concerned that today, for what appears to be the first time ever, a FISA reform bill has been sent first to the House Intelligence Committee. The House Judiciary Committee must assert its critically important role with regard to FISA reform efforts so as to ensure that our Constitutional liberties are properly protected as we seek to promote national security."

### **Rep. Nadler: Hobby Lobby Should Not be Subject to Religious Liberty Protections**

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY-10), a veteran member of the House Judiciary Committee and one of the architects of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993, released the following statement on the oral arguments before the Supreme Court regarding Hobby Lobby and RFRA:

"Bosses should not be able to make health care decisions about the reproductive choices of their employees. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act was intended to be used as a shield, not a sword. No matter how sincerely held a religious belief might be, for-profit employers – like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood – cannot

wield their beliefs as a means of denying employees access to critical preventive health care services. 99% of all American women who are sexually active in their lifetimes use birth control. Their interests cannot be ignored and should not be cast aside.

"When we passed RFRA, we sought to restore – not expand – protection for religion. We kept in place the core principle that religion does not excuse for-profit businesses from complying with our laws. Religious belief did not excuse restaurants or hotels from following our civil rights laws in the 1960s or an Amish employer from paying into the Social Security system in the 1980s. It should not be expanded now to allow for-profit companies to override the health care choices of female employees.

"To hold otherwise allows the owners of for-profit companies to impose their beliefs on others – their employees and patrons – who may not share their beliefs and who will be harmed as result. I am hopeful that the Court will confirm that these sort of discriminatory actions by for-profit companies are neither protected by RFRA nor the First Amendment."

### **Rep. Nadler Calls on FAA to Take Action on Helicopter Noise Complaints**

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jerrold Nadler attended a Federal Aviation Administration helicopter symposium regarding a letter that he along with Representatives Grimm and Velázquez and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand wrote to the FAA on December 20, 2013. The letter was in response to growing concern around the city regarding the noise created by low-flying helicopters. The symposium covered the processes by which the FAA measures and regulates helicopter noise as well as the NYC Economic Development Corporation's take on the issue and ended with plans to convene with New Jersey stakeholders on the Hudson corridor.

Representative Nadler, unsatisfied with the outcome of the symposium, contended that the FAA needed to take action immediately as ten years of meetings had done little to find a solution to helicopter noise pollution and safety concerns. The Congressman stood with NYC constituents from Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island in asserting, “We are out of patience and must see change now.”

The Congressman will be meeting with City Hall officials and the United States Department of Transportation’s Secretary’s office to discuss the next course of action in addressing the matter.

### **Rep. Nadler on the U.S. Copyright System in the Digital Age**

On March 13th, Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY-10), the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, delivered an opening statement at the hearing on Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This was the first hearing of this Subcommittee with Congressman Nadler serving as the Ranking Member.

“I am honored to succeed our former colleague, Mel Watt – who is now serving as Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency – and I look forward to working closely with Subcommittee Chairman Howard Coble, full Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. and all of my colleagues as we continue the Subcommittee’s important work. Today’s hearing is part of our comprehensive review of the nation’s copyright laws to explore how our copyright system is faring in the digital age,” said Congressman Nadler. “Our goal now – just as it was in 1998 – is to preserve incentives for service providers and copyright holders to work together to address online infringement in a manner that provides real protection for creators as the Internet continues to grow and thrive.”

The full text of the Congressman’s opening statement can be found on his website.

### **Rep. Nadler and Congressional Progressive Caucus Introduce “Better Off” Budget**

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jerrold Nadler along with his fellow members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus submitted their annual budget, regarding which the Congressman released the following statement:

“The federal budget is a reflection of America’s national priorities by demonstrating how we choose to raise and spend our tax dollars. For far too long, the American economy has worked disproportionately well for the richest 1% while leaving the average American family falling further and further behind. Recently, I joined with my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to **introduce** the “Better Off” Budget, our vision of how the federal government should raise revenue, provide services, and invest for the future. The “Better Off” Budget would **raise** the minimum wage to at least \$10.10 an hour, would invest in programs that would **create** 8.8 million jobs, would ensure everyone pays their fair share in taxes, and would fund job training and unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed

Restoring fairness to the American economy means helping those in need, especially the most vulnerable among us. The “Better Off” Budget would restore full funding to food stamp programs and would ensure the 40 million Americans who rely on these benefits are not suddenly choosing between paying for housing, buying much-needed medication, and putting food on the table. This budget would help our seniors by strengthening Medicare and Medicaid and preventing any cuts in benefits and services.”

Sign up for Congressman Nadler's [e-newsletter](http://www.nadler.house.gov) by visiting [www.nadler.house.gov](http://www.nadler.house.gov)

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