



FEBRUARY 2014

Rep. Nadler Selected as Ranking Democrat on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and Internet Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee

On January 28th, Rep. Nadler, who has served on the House Judiciary Committee for the past 21 years, was selected as the Ranking Democrat on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and Internet Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, a choice that is expected to be ratified by the full committee next time it meets. This subcommittee has jurisdiction over copyright, patent, and trademark laws, as well as regulation of information technology, Administration of U.S. Courts, Federal Rules of Evidence, Civil and Appellate Procedure, and judicial ethics.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Ranking Democrat on this important subcommittee. The subcommittee has begun the first comprehensive review of our nation’s copyright laws since 1976. These laws are at the core of how we consume media, from watching TV and listening to music to enjoying a movie or sharing photos,” said Nadler. “We will seek to strike the right balance between how artists, authors, musicians, photographers and other content creators are compensated for their work with the desire of technology companies to provide new and innovative ways for consumers to access this content like never before.”

“I look forward to continuing to serve on the Constitution and Civil Justice Subcommittee of

the House Judiciary Committee with the newly selected Ranking Democrat, Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-9). I am proud to have served on the panel as the Ranking Democrat/Chairman since 2001 as we have faced some of our nation’s most pressing questions, ranging from NSA surveillance and the Patriot Act to LGBT rights, the Voting Rights Act, and a woman’s right to choose,” said Nadler. “I remain committed to protecting the Constitution and the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.”

Nadler, Conyers, & Scott Hail Government Privacy Watchdog’s Recommendation to End NSA’s Mass-Surveillance Program

On January 23rd, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) released a report criticizing and calling for an end to the National Security Agency’s (NSA) sweeping telephone metadata collection program. The PCLOB cited the program, currently permitted under Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, as having “little unique value” in investigating and preventing terrorism. This comes on the heels of President Obama’s speech at the Department of Justice last Friday calling for Congressional action to curb excesses in the United State’s surveillance programs. After the report was released, Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), and Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-Va.) issued statements.

Rep. Nadler voiced his concerns stating, “I applaud the work of the Privacy and Civil

Liberties Oversight Board and welcome their voice in this critical debate over whether our existing surveillance scheme adequately safeguards Americans' constitutional rights and Congress's statutory demands. I agree with their conclusion that the National Security Agency must end its indiscriminate bulk surveillance of the American people. We know that this sort of mass collection of data does not make us safer and undermines our constitutionally protected rights. Working from these recommendations, along with those outlined in the USA FREEDOM Act, Congress must reform the law to ensure that there is real and lasting change and that the Constitution is fully respected."

Nadler & Conyers Mark 41st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade with Call to Embolden Women's Rights

On January 22nd, 41 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, affirming the constitutional right of women to make their own health care choices. In marking this historic anniversary, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and U.S. House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) issued statements addressing the state of women's rights regarding healthcare in the present day.

Congressman Nadler had this to say, "In 1973, the Supreme Court issued one of the most important decisions of the 20th century – *Roe v. Wade*. Despite that landmark ruling, the right of a woman to make health care decisions about her body remains under relentless attack. Anti-choice legislators in Washington, DC and in state capitals throughout America continue their assault on a woman's right to choose by writing absurd anti-women laws and ultimately seeking to overturn *Roe v. Wade* altogether. I remain committed to fighting against these measures and to protecting the rights of women to make their own health care decisions."

Nadler, Conyers, and Scott Applaud the President's Pledge to End Bulk Collection at the NSA

On January 17th, after President Obama's address on surveillance reform at the Department of Justice in which he concurred with many of the findings of the Review Group he convened on Intelligence and Communications Technologies—including its recommendation that the government should no longer engage in the bulk collection of telephone metadata at the National Security Agency (NSA), Rep. Nadler, Conyers, and Scott, issued statements.

"Today's speech by President Obama is a welcome step in the right direction, but the reforms proposed by the President are not enough. Executive branch overreach in the name of national security did not start - and will not end - with this Administration. The balance of powers enumerated in the Constitution must be respected for generations to come, regardless of who occupies the White House. Congress, and specifically the House Judiciary Committee, will continue to work to protect the American people from an intrusive Executive Branch, which all too often operates in secrecy and without proper accountability. We will make sure that President Obama follows through on the promises he made today, and will fight for further legal reforms to safeguard against indiscriminate, bulk surveillance of everyday Americans. We will ensure that our hard-fought freedoms are fully respected," said Nadler.

Comp. Stringer to Audit NYCHA, Following Calls from Members of Congress, Labor Leaders

On January 17th, Congressman Nadler (D-NY) joined Comptroller Scott Stringer alongside labor leaders Gregory Floyd, President of Teamsters Local 237; Vincent Alvarez, President of NYC Central Labor Council, and others who represent 12,000 NYCHA workers; as well as

Rep. Meeks and the offices of Reps. Carolyn Maloney (NY-12) and Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8) in attending a meeting at Teamsters Headquarters to gather input and concerns pertaining to the operational practices of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Today's meeting followed a November 2013 meeting, at which Reps. Maloney, Nadler, Yvette Clarke (NY-9) and Grace Meng (NY-6) and labor leaders Mario Cilento, President of NYS AFL-CIO, as well as Floyd, Alvarez, and others called on then Comptroller-elect Stringer to conduct a comprehensive audit of NYCHA. Among their worries: Concerns about the cost-effectiveness of outsourcing maintenance and repairs, the lack of professional job training within NYCHA, and whether NYCHA has or has not spent federal money it has received and if so, on what.

"I am extremely pleased that Comptroller Stringer has already begun to move forward with a full audit of NYCHA's finances and operations, as we called for late last fall," said Congressman Nadler. "I look forward to continuing to work together with the Comptroller's office, the new administration, my colleagues and labor leaders to better understand NYCHA's past failings and to move forward with much-needed reforms to protect our public housing and the workers who serve those developments."

Rep. Nadler and Meng Hail Grant Funding to Upgrade Old Diesel Engines

On January 16th, U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan/Brooklyn and) Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) hailed the House's passage of \$20 million for Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grants. The money is used to replace or retrofit old diesel engines, including those in locomotives and school buses, in order to reduce the harmful diesel emissions they generate. The funds were incorporated into the Omnibus Appropriations Bill after Nadler and Meng called

for \$30 million to be allocated for the program. The President had only requested \$6 million.

"The \$20 million appropriated toward DERA is a step in the right direction for upgrading outdated diesel engines and improving our local environment," said Nadler. "Many diesel engines are decades old and can be found in our school buses and locomotives, which run almost every day. Taking advantage of cleaner technologies will improve our air quality and reduce the disastrous consequences of the pollution unnecessarily created by antiquated diesel engines."

Under past DERA grants, the New York City Economic Development Corporation received funds to upgrade two locomotives. The Representatives are hopeful that more money can be allocated in the future to New York State to help with retrofitting additional engines.

Rep. Nadler: GOP Pushing Anti-Woman, Anti-Family Agenda

On January 15th, Congressman Nadler stated his vehement opposition to H.R. 7, which would impose unacceptable limits on a woman's reproductive rights. Regarding the matter he said, "As their first order of business this new year and legislative session, House Republicans are once again pushing their aggressive anti-woman, anti-family agenda. They do so today with H.R. 7, the misnamed and misleading 'No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.'

He went on to say, "All their rhetoric about 'public funding' is a smokescreen. The real purpose and effect of H.R. 7 is to eliminate health care choices for women, by imposing significant tax penalties on women and small employers, when they use their own money to pay for abortion or for insurance that covers abortion. This tax penalty – and the significant accounting and administrative gymnastics it demands from insurers – is intended to drive insurance companies into excluding abortion

services from existing comprehensive health care policies that women and families now have and rely upon.

“My colleagues in the majority believe that if you like your insurance coverage, you should get to keep it, unless it is for choices that they don’t like. Then, they have no qualms about taking your coverage away.”

Reps. Nadler, Maloney Call for Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Benefits

On January 7th, Reps. Jerrold Nadler (NY-10) and Carolyn Maloney (NY-12) joined Organizing for Action New York, representatives from New York labor unions and area residents affected by the expiration of benefits to call for a restoration of emergency unemployment benefits that have expired for 110,000 New Yorkers and 1.3 million nationwide.

“Unfortunately, the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives shamefully ended unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans, including 127,100 New Yorkers, who are currently looking for work,” said Congressman Nadler. “Extending unemployment insurance is the right thing to do for our hard working families and it is the right thing to do for our nation’s economy. It is unconscionable that Republicans continue to block its extension.”

New York State will continue to provide up to 26 weeks of state-funded unemployment insurance, but the federal program, which had been providing an additional 47 weeks of coverage, has expired. Extending emergency unemployment benefits through the end of 2014 will lead to an estimated 200,000 jobs and a fifth of a point of additional economic growth. The

unemployment rate in New York City is still 8.6 percent.

Sign up for Congressman Nadler’s [e-newsletter](#) by visiting www.nadler.house.gov

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