



Nadler, Baldwin, and Markey Introduce Legislation to Level the Playing Field for American Visual Artists

On February 26th, Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced legislation to level the playing field for visual artists in the United States by establishing copyright protections for their intellectual property.

“American artists are being treated unfairly,” said Congressman Nadler (D-NY), who first introduced a version of the ART Act in 2011 and serves as the Ranking Democrat on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and Internet Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. “At a time when more than 70 other countries properly compensate visual artists for their work, it is time for the United States to do the same. The ART Act will ensure that visual artists get the compensation they deserve and will no longer be at a disadvantage on the international art market. It is the only fair thing to do.”

Under current copyright law, visual artists – painters, sculptors, and photographers – are denied the ability to fully benefit from the success of their work over time. Unlike recording artists or publishers who, if successful, sell thousands of copies of their work and recoup a royalty from each purchase, artists sell their work only once. If they are successful, the price

of their work increases but they recoup nothing if their original work is resold at a much higher price. The benefits derived from the appreciation in the price of a visual artists’ work typically accrues to collectors, auction houses, and galleries, not to the artist. In addition, United States artists are at a disadvantage in the global art market where more than 70 other countries have provided resale royalty rights for visual artists. The American Royalties, Too (ART) Act of 2014 remedies this inequity by providing a modest resale royalty right for visual artists. A full description of the ART Act can be found on the Congressman’s website.

Reps. Nadler, Cicilline Demand Answers on FBI's Use of Non-Court Approved Surveillance

On February 19th, Congressmen Jerrold Nadler (NY-10) and David Cicilline (RI-1), both members of the House Judiciary Committee, sent a letter to United States Attorney General Eric Holder. The letter asks questions raised by the February 4, 2014 testimony of Deputy Attorney General James Cole regarding the use of non-court approved surveillance methods, known as National Security Letters (NSLs), which are issued at the sole discretion of the FBI.

“The government uses Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and National Security Letters to get at the same kind of information, and does so frequently, interchangeably, and without

adequate explanation to Congress,” said the two signers.

“Congress and the American public have understandably focused on the government’s bulk collection of telephone metadata under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, but National Security Letters are often used to get at the same kind of information without involving any form of court approval,” they continued. “This is deeply troubling and, therefore, addressing the proper use of NSLs must be part of any meaningful reform of government surveillance authorities. We look forward to working with the Administration as we find a path forward on this issue.”

The full text of the letter can be found on the Congressman’s website.

Reps. Nadler, Maloney & King praise expansion of WTC Health Program covered conditions list

On February 14th, Reps. Jerrold Nadler, Carolyn B. Maloney, and Peter King, lead sponsors of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, offered the following joint statement praising the WTC Health Program Cancer Interim Final Rule, which amends the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions (List) found in the WTC Health Program regulations, and results in four specific cancers -- brain, cervix uteri (invasive cervical cancer), pancreas, and testis-- becoming eligible for coverage as WTC-related health conditions.

“A dozen years later, we’re finding that a wide variety of illnesses can be attributed to the toxins released at Ground Zero. The addition of these cancer types to the list of covered conditions will help keep our promise to the 9/11 responders and survivors. We applaud the WTC Health Program’s interim final rule and share the WTC Health program’s commitment to caring for

those who gave and lost so much in response to this national tragedy.”

Rep. Nadler Signs Bipartisan Letter on NSA Surveillance of Members of Congress

On February 12th, three senior members of the House Judiciary Committee sent a letter to Deputy Attorney General James Cole regarding his February 4, 2014 testimony about reforming government surveillance programs.

“It is wrong that the NSA collects data on millions of Americans who are under zero suspicion of wrongdoing, some of whom may be Members of Congress,” said Congressman Jerrold Nadler. “This sort of broad surveillance and bulk data collection by the executive branch is likely unconstitutional and raises serious questions about the constitutionally protected separation of powers.”

The letter was signed by Congressmen Jerrold Nadler alongside Congressmen Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Darrell Issa (R-CA). The full text can be found on the Congressman’s website.

Rep. Nadler Supports “The Day We Fight Back” Protest Against NSA Surveillance

On February 10th, Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY-10), a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, released the following statement in support of tomorrow’s “The Day We Fight Back” protest:

“As a proud co-sponsor of the USA FREEDOM Act, I stand in solidarity with those participating ‘The Day We Fight Back’ protest and speaking

out against an intrusive executive branch, which all too often operates in secrecy and without proper accountability. The NSA 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. Congress must reform the law to ensure that there is real and lasting change and that the Constitution is fully respected.”

Rep. Nadler Votes Against Food Stamp Cuts in Farm Bill

On January 29, Congressman Jerrold Nadler voted no on the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act. The bill calls for drastic cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that will affect 850,000 households nationwide. The Farm Bill, signed into law on February 7th by President Obama, approves \$1 trillion over the next 10 years in spending on nutrition programs and farm subsidies.

“There are many positive provisions in the farm bill, such as those supporting conservation and the environment, organic programs, animal welfare, and international food aid, but I cannot support \$8.5 billion in SNAP cuts. Low income families will lose an average of \$90 a month. For vulnerable residents of New York City, the additional cuts will take away 70-100 million meals. It is cruel and unnecessary. I cannot in good conscience vote to increase food insecurity in America,” said Congressman Nadler.

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

Also, please visit Congressman Nadler on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube!

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