

# Taking Freedom for Granted ?

The **USAPATRIOT Act**, which is an acronym for **U**niting and **S**trengthening America by **P**roviding **A**ppropriate **T**ools **R**equired to **I**ntercept and **O**bstruct **T**errorism, was passed hastily by Congress on Oct. 25, 2001 right after the 9-11 tragedy. It allows the government to:

- Search your home or office without your knowledge
- Monitor your internet use, read your e-mail, and obtain your library records
- Wiretap your telephone without a court order
- Detain you without access to a lawyer and without charging you with a crime
- Monitor your political and religious activities

## Odd bedfellows fall in line

by Sara B. Miller and Seth Stern, *The Christian Science Monitor*, October 29, 2003

It's perhaps not surprising that the first resolutions were passed in the spring of 2002 by peace movement veterans in liberal college towns such as Ann Arbor, Mich., or Northampton, Mass. But this year, **the Patriot Act has started attracting more attention from people on the right. Gun owners and antiabortion demonstrators**, for example, have expressed fears they may be targeted by a future Democratic administration as domestic terrorists.

In some parts of the country, left-leaning activists reached out to sympathetic local conservatives after failing to muster support on their own. That was the case in Boise, Idaho, where **Green Party** activist Gwen Sanchirico **formed a coalition called the Boise Patriots along with National Rifle Association members, antiabortion activists, and environmentalists.**

"We agreed that we would leave our political baggage at the door, and we would only come together to defend the Bill of Rights and our Constitution," Ms. Sanchirico says. Boise passed their resolution on Sept. 30.

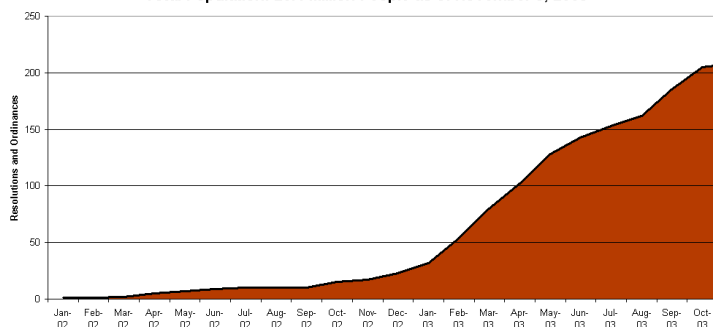
In Washington, there are signs that **lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are having doubts about the Patriot Act**, too. An amendment introduced by Representative Otter this past summer against "sneak and peak" searches overwhelmingly passed the House.

Now a bipartisan group of lawmakers including Sens. Russell Feingold (D) of Wisconsin, Larry Craig (R) of Idaho, and Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska has introduced several pieces of legislation designed to scale back the Patriot Act.

**The legislation is endorsed by an ideologically diverse coalition of Washington interest groups ranging from the conservative Americans for Tax Reform to the liberal People for the American Way.**

## Grassroots Movement Growth

Total Resolutions and Ordinances: 205 Communities, 3 States  
Total Population: 26.1 Million People as of November 5, 2003



**Three states and 205 cities, towns, and counties have passed resolutions to protect the civil liberties of their 26,121,725 residents.**

**Should Rockland County pass a similar resolution?**

## What can you do?

**Sign a petition** to request the Rockland County legislature to pass a resolution to repeal the USAPATRIOT Act. Petition form can be downloaded from [www.rocklandaction.org](http://www.rocklandaction.org)