

R013-0910

10 **A resolution concerning**
20 **THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

30 **WHEREAS:** The USA Patriot Act greatly expanded government surveillance which has led to
40 the infringement of personal freedoms, rights and liberties of American citizens; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** The Fourth Amendment clearly states that our rights are protected against
60 unreasonable search and seizure, while establishing specific rules for the protection of rights to
70 ownership; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Certain provisions of the Patriot Act, known as “sneak and peek” enable
90 authorities to search private homes without the approval of the courts and without telling the
100 subject either in advance or immediately after the fact; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** Under the Patriot Act, authorities must eventually inform individuals that they have
120 been the target or focus of an investigation, the delay can be indefinite; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Most searches require authorities to have a search warrant based on probable cause,
140 searches in the name of the Patriot Act do not follow this mandate

150 **WHEREAS:** The Patriot Act sends a message to the American people that national security
160 deserves a higher priority even at the expense of individual liberty; and,

170 **WHEREAS:** Sacrificing civil liberties in the name of national security is not what the framers of
180 the Constitution had in mind; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** The Patriot Act was scheduled to expire at the end of this year; and,

200 **WHEREAS:** The Senate Judiciary Committee recently passed the USA Patriot Act Sunset
210 Extension Act of 2009.

220 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges
230 Congress to pass the USA Patriot Act Sunshine Extension Act of 2009 with additional
240 amendments that protect civil liberties and ensure that our fundamental rights are protected.

250 **MANDATES:**
260 President Barack Obama
270 Vice President Joe Biden
280 Senator Patrick Leahy
290 Senator Benjamin Cardin
300 Senator Diane Feinstein

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