

# ***ACTION ALERT!***

## **YOUR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS AND SECTION 215 OF THE PATRIOT ACT**

Section 215 allows federal agents to seize our confidential medical and mental health records without probable cause and prohibits physicians and therapists from telling anyone, including their patients or clients, that the government has taken their records.

The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Therapists for Social Responsibility, Therapists for Peace and Justice, California Association for Clinical Social Work and the National Association of Social Workers are on record as opposing this section.

**Section 215, which had been scheduled to sunset at the end of this year, is being renewed. Two bills, which recently passed the House and the Senate, vary considerably and will likely be sent to conference when Congress reconvenes in September.**

**Senate bill S.1389, while limited, is preferable as it contains amendments, including exceptions to the gag order, which help to protect the confidentiality of our medical and mental health records.**

**Please contact your representatives in Congress and tell them to make sure the final bill corresponds with Senate bill S.1389 regarding the medical records portion of the bill and ask them to work for continued PATRIOT Act reform.**

Hand written letters faxed from your home or office carry more weight than emails. Include your name and home address or zip code. Phone calls are also useful.

To find contact information for your Senator and Representative and to get more details on the Patriot Act, please go to <http://action.aclu.org/reformthepatriotact/>

For content of S.1389: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s109-1389>

**TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! WE CALL ON HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND ALL CITIZENS TO TAKE ACTION NOW.**

