

I voted Yes on S. 3454, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

This bill sets funding levels for the services of the 16 agencies that make up the U.S. Intelligence Community. Funding authorized by this bill will go toward areas including personnel salaries and expenditures, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, oversight and management of intelligence activities, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirements and Disability System. The services of these agencies provide unsurpassed assistance in keeping our troops, our friends and loved ones, and our nation at large safe. Funding for these agencies will enhance our continued efforts against al Qaeda and its affiliates operating in cells around the world, provide counterintelligence against foreign spies, authorize the Defense Clandestine Service, and keep us aware and prepared to address other emerging threats around the world.

Importantly, this bill also prohibits any activities not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

As the primary vehicle to direct Congressional oversight of our nation's intelligence agencies, I voted for this bill to protect our national security by supporting the civilian and military personnel of the intelligence community. These men and women provide a vital service to U.S. national security by directly supporting war zone operations and engaging in hazardous operations in order to protect Americans every day. This bill ensures proper funding to enhance national security, support our armed forces, and assist foreign policy objectives for fiscal year 2013.

S. 3454 was approved by a vote of 273 – 29.