

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

April

statement of support for
encryption from the administration.

Last week, the text of a draft bill written by Senators Burr and Feinstein was published, currently called the Compliance with Court Orders Act of 2016. It is difficult to take this draft seriously. It has been bro that all internet companies, and in fact “any person who provides a product or method to facilitate a communication or the processing or storage of data,” either undermine the security features they offer users or offer lesser security so as to facilitate government access. This definition includes institutions that many, including government agencies and representat

verely
undermine digital security. This bill essentially asks device manufacturers to service provide t

posal as this one out of hand, it raises serious concerns about the administration’s

right to free expression, as well as critical infrastructure systems and government databases. However, it would likely to do very little to assist in investigations of crime or terrorism, since those who engage in illegal activities will have access to other means to protect their own devices and communications.

Several members of civil society and industry published a petition using the White House’s A

established threshold to require an official response. Despite a commitment to work to provide this response within 60 days, it has been more than 160 days without an answer from your office.

Mr. President, this is an important issue of safety. Data breaches and security incidents—including in the past weeks—demonstrate that companies are barely keeping ahead of adversaries even when they are devoting all of their relevant resources to maintaining system integrity. We cannot now require that they work backward to implement security holes which bad actors will inevitably break through.

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Restore the Fourth
R Street Institute
Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)
the Tor Project
Venture Politics
X-Lab

Eric Burger, Georgetown University
Ian Goldberg, University of Waterloo
James O'Keefe
John Wunderlich