

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 18, United States Code, to modify delayed notice requirements,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COONS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 18, United States Code, to modify delayed  
notice requirements, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “NDO Fairness Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PRECLUSION OF NOTICE.**

6 Section 2705(b) of title 18, United States Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) PRECLUSION OF NOTICE.—

9 “(1) APPLICATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A governmental entity  
2 that is seeking a warrant, order, or subpoena  
3 under section 2703, when it is not required to  
4 notify the customer or subscriber, or to the ex-  
5 tent that it may delay such notice pursuant to  
6 subsection (a), may apply to a court for an  
7 order, subject to paragraph (6), directing a pro-  
8 vider of electronic communications service or re-  
9 mote computing service to which a warrant,  
10 order, or subpoena under section 2703 is di-  
11 rected not to notify any other person of the ex-  
12 istence of the warrant, order, or subpoena.

13           “(B) LENGTH.—

14           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
15 (ii), an order granted under subparagraph  
16 (A) shall be in effect for a period of not  
17 more than 90 days.

18           “(ii) EXCEPTION.—An order granted  
19 under subparagraph (A) shall be in effect  
20 for a period of not more than 1 year if the  
21 nature of the offense for which the govern-  
22 mental entity is seeking a warrant, order,  
23 or subpoena pertains to child sexual abuse  
24 material under section 2256(8), sexual ex-  
25 ploitation of children under section 2251,

1 or any Federal, State, Tribal, or military  
2 offense that is the substantial equivalent.

3 “(C) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An application for  
5 an order under subparagraph (A) shall  
6 state, to the best of the applicant’s knowl-  
7 edge, whether the named customer or sub-  
8 scriber whose information is sought by the  
9 warrant, order, or subpoena under section  
10 2703—

11 “(I) is aware of the warrant,  
12 order, subpoena, or underlying inves-  
13 tigation; and

14 “(II) is suspected of involvement  
15 in the commission of the crime under  
16 investigation.

17 “(ii) ORDERS.—An order granted  
18 under subparagraph (A) may not direct, or  
19 otherwise require, a provider of electronic  
20 communications service or remote com-  
21 puting service to provide notification of the  
22 expiration of the order to the court or to  
23 the government entity that sought the  
24 order.

25 “(2) DETERMINATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The court may not  
2 grant a request for an order made under para-  
3 graph (1), or a request for an extension of such  
4 order made under paragraph (3), unless—

5           “(i) subject to subparagraph (B)(ii),  
6 the court issues a written determination,  
7 based on specific and articulable facts and  
8 including written findings of fact and con-  
9 clusions of law, that it is likely that not  
10 granting the request will result in—

11           “(I) endangering the life or phys-  
12 ical safety of an individual;

13           “(II) flight from prosecution;

14           “(III) destruction of or tam-  
15 pering with evidence;

16           “(IV) intimidation of potential  
17 witnesses; or

18           “(V) otherwise seriously jeopard-  
19 izing an investigation or unduly delay-  
20 ing a trial;

21           “(ii) the order is narrowly tailored  
22 and there is no less restrictive alternative,  
23 including notification to an individual or  
24 organization within or providing legal rep-  
25 resentation to the named customer or sub-

1 scribe, that is not likely to result in an  
2 adverse result as described in subclauses  
3 (I) through (V) of clause (i); and

4 “(iii) the court has reviewed the indi-  
5 vidual warrant, order, or subpoena issued  
6 under section 2703 to which the order  
7 issued under paragraph (1) applies.

8 “(B) NATURE OF THE OFFENSE.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
10 (ii), the court may consider the nature of  
11 the offense in issuing a determination  
12 under subparagraph (A).

13 “(ii) PRESUMPTION.—If the court de-  
14 termines there is a reasonable belief that  
15 the nature of the offense pertains to child  
16 sexual abuse material under section  
17 2256(8), sexual exploitation of children  
18 under section 2251, or any Federal, State,  
19 Tribal, or military offense that is the sub-  
20 stantial equivalent, the court may presume  
21 that 1 or more of the factors described in  
22 subclauses (I) through (V) of subpara-  
23 graph (A)(i) are met and may issue an  
24 order consistent with this subsection with-

1 out a written decision under subparagraph  
2 (A)(i).

3 “(3) EXTENSION.—

4 “(A) REQUEST.—A governmental entity  
5 may request 1 or more extensions of an order  
6 granted under paragraph (1) of not more than  
7 90 days for each such extension.

8 “(B) WRITTEN DETERMINATION RE-  
9 QUIRED.—The court may grant a request under  
10 subparagraph (A) if the court makes a written  
11 determination in accordance with paragraph  
12 (2)(A).

13 “(4) NOTIFICATION OF CHANGED CIR-  
14 CUMSTANCES.—If the need for the order issued  
15 under paragraph (1) or an extension issued under  
16 paragraph (3) changes materially, the governmental  
17 entity that requested the order shall notify the court  
18 within a reasonable period of time (not to exceed 14  
19 days) of the changed circumstances, and the court  
20 shall reassess the order and modify or vacate the  
21 order as appropriate.

22 “(5) OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon an application,  
24 petition, or motion by a provider of electronic  
25 communications service or remote computing

1 service or person acting on behalf of the pro-  
2 vider to which an order under paragraph (1) or  
3 an extension under paragraph (3) has been  
4 issued, the court may modify or vacate the  
5 order if—

6 “(i) the order does not meet require-  
7 ments provided in paragraph (2) or (3); or

8 “(ii) compliance with the order is un-  
9 reasonable or otherwise unlawful.

10 “(B) STAY OF DISCLOSURE OF NAMED  
11 CUSTOMER OR SUBSCRIBER COMMUNICATIONS  
12 OR RECORDS.—The obligation of a provider of  
13 electronic communications service or remote  
14 computing service to disclose the information  
15 requested in the warrant, order, or subpoena to  
16 which the order in paragraph (1) applies is  
17 stayed upon the filing of the application, peti-  
18 tion, or motion under this paragraph pending  
19 resolution of the application, petition, or mo-  
20 tion, unless the court with jurisdiction over the  
21 challenge determines, based on a showing by  
22 the governmental entity, that the stay should be  
23 lifted in whole or in part prior to resolution.

24 “(C) FINALITY OF ORDER.—The decision  
25 of the court resolving an application, petition,

1 or motion under this paragraph shall constitute  
2 a final, appealable order.

3 “(6) EXCEPTION.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A provider of elec-  
5 tronic communications service or remote com-  
6 puting service to which an order under para-  
7 graph (1) applies, or an officer, employee, or  
8 agent thereof, may disclose information other-  
9 wise subject to any applicable nondisclosure re-  
10 quirement to—

11 “(i) those persons to whom disclosure  
12 is necessary in order to comply with the  
13 warrant, order, or subpoena;

14 “(ii) an attorney, in order to obtain  
15 legal advice or assistance relating to the  
16 order issued under paragraph (1) or the  
17 warrant, order, or subpoena to which the  
18 order applies; and

19 “(iii) any person the court determines  
20 can be notified of the warrant, order, or  
21 subpoena.

22 “(B) SCOPE OF NONDISCLOSURE.—

23 “(i) RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION.—  
24 Any person to whom disclosure is made  
25 under subparagraph (A), other than the



1           governmental entity, shall be subject to the  
2           nondisclosure requirements applicable to  
3           the person to whom the order is issued.

4           “(ii) NOTIFICATION.—Any recipient  
5           authorized under this paragraph to disclose  
6           to a person information otherwise subject  
7           to a nondisclosure requirement shall notify  
8           the person of the applicable nondisclosure  
9           requirement.

10          “(7) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.—Upon  
11          serving a provider of electronic communications serv-  
12          ice or remote computing service with an order grant-  
13          ed under paragraph (1), or an extension of such  
14          order granted under paragraph (3), the govern-  
15          mental entity shall include a copy of the warrant,  
16          order, or subpoena to which the nondisclosure order  
17          applies.

18          “(8) EXPIRATION OF ORDER PRECLUDING NO-  
19          TICE.—Upon expiration of an order issued under  
20          paragraph (1) or, if an extension has been granted  
21          under paragraph (3), expiration of the extension, the  
22          governmental entity shall deliver to the named cus-  
23          tomer or subscriber, by not less than 2 methods,  
24          which shall be personal service, registered or first-  
25          class mail, electronic mail, or other means approved

1 by the court as reasonably calculated to reach the  
2 named customer or subscriber within 5 business  
3 days of the expiration of the order—

4 “(A) a copy of the warrant, order, or sub-  
5 poena; and

6 “(B) notice that informs the named cus-  
7 tomer or subscriber—

8 “(i) of the nature of the law enforce-  
9 ment inquiry with reasonable specificity;

10 “(ii) that information maintained for  
11 such customer or subscriber by the pro-  
12 vider of electronic communications service  
13 or remote computing service to which the  
14 warrant, order, or subpoena under section  
15 2703, was directed, supplied to, or re-  
16 quested by the government entity;

17 “(iii) that notification of such cus-  
18 tomer or subscriber was precluded by court  
19 order;

20 “(iv) of the identity of the court au-  
21 thORIZING the preclusion of notice;

22 “(v) of the provision of this chapter  
23 under which the preclusion of notice was  
24 authorized; and



1 State, Tribal, or military offense that is  
2 the substantial equivalent; or

3 “(iii) other illegal material; or

4 “(B) in the event that no information was  
5 disclosed, a written certification that no infor-  
6 mation was disclosed.

7 “(10) REDACTIONS.—Any information disclosed  
8 under paragraph (8) or (9) may be redacted only if  
9 a court finds such redactions necessary to preserve  
10 the secrecy or integrity of an investigation.”.

11 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING DELAYED**  
12 **NOTICE.**

13 Section 2705 of title 18, United States Code, is  
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, the  
17 Attorney General shall provide to the Committee on  
18 the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on the  
19 Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the  
20 Director of the Administrative Office of the United  
21 States Courts, which the Attorney General shall  
22 publish on the website of the Department of Justice,  
23 in a manner consistent with the protection of na-  
24 tional security, a report setting forth, with respect to

1 the preceding calendar year, for each Federal judi-  
2 cial district—

3 “(A) the number of named customers or  
4 subscribers with respect to whom, in that cal-  
5 endar year, a warrant, subpoena, or court order  
6 was issued pursuant to section 2703;

7 “(B) the aggregate number of applications  
8 requesting delay of notification pursuant to  
9 subsection (a)(1), preclusion of notice pursuant  
10 to subsection (b)(1), and extensions pursuant to  
11 subsection (b)(3);

12 “(C) the aggregate number of orders under  
13 this section either granting, extending, or deny-  
14 ing a request for delay of notification or pre-  
15 clusion of notice;

16 “(D) the aggregate number of orders  
17 under this section affecting a member of the  
18 news media, including any conduct related to  
19 activities protected under the First Amendment  
20 to the Constitution of the United States; and

21 “(E) the aggregate number of arrests,  
22 trials, and convictions, resulting from investiga-  
23 tions in which orders under this section were  
24 obtained, including the offenses for which indi-  
25 viduals were arrested, tried, or convicted.

1           “(2) INCLUSION.—The Attorney General shall  
2           include in the report under this subsection a descrip-  
3           tion of the process and the information used to de-  
4           termine the numbers for each of subparagraphs (A)  
5           through (E) of paragraph (1).”.