

Dear Customer,

As you know, this bookstore joined in the nationwide drive that collected hundreds of thousands of signatures on petitions demanding the restoration of protections for reader privacy that were eliminated by Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act. Congress has now voted to reauthorize the expiring sections of the USA PATRIOT Act, including Section 215, which has been extended for another four years.

While we and our colleagues in the Campaign for Reader Privacy are not happy with some of the provisions of the new law, it is a significant improvement over the original PATRIOT Act. It contains a number of new procedural safeguards and oversight requirements that begin to reestablish protections for reader privacy. For the first time, any bookstore or library that receives a Section 215 order has an explicit right to seek legal counsel and to challenge the order in court. In addition, after one year, a recipient of a search order can petition the courts to remove the "gag" order that prohibits disclosure of the search to anyone except a lawyer. We are also pleased with a provision of the new law that requires the Justice Department to publicly reveal the number of bookstore and library searches every year.

The fight for reader privacy will continue. In the meantime, we want to thank those who signed our petition. Your signatures helped persuade Congress that the American people care deeply about their civil liberties.