

January 14, 2014

**To: Interested Parties**

**Fr: Anzalone Liszt Grove Research**

**Re: Americans Strongly Support Reining in NSA Surveillance Programs**

The public strongly supports curbing the federal government’s surveillance programs based on the results of a national poll recently conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research.<sup>1</sup> Below are some of the key findings from the poll:

- **There is a strong desire for changes to the government’s current surveillance programs.** Americans oppose leaving the NSA’s current surveillance programs in place as is by a 27-point margin (32% support / 59% oppose). Nearly three-quarters support the creation of an independent advocate to help protect the public’s privacy, while almost two-thirds (63%) say that more oversight is needed over the federal government’s surveillance programs.

Support for Limits on Government Surveillance	% Strongly Support	% Total Support
Creating an independent legal advocate to help protect the public's privacy and prevent the federal government from abusing its surveillance programs.	48	74
Increasing oversight over the federal government's surveillance programs.	37	63
	% Strongly Oppose	% Total Oppose
Keeping the federal government's current surveillance programs in place without any changes.	26	59

- **Americans have little confidence in the government’s ability to keep the data it collects secure or to use its programs appropriately.** Strong majorities say they have “not much” or “no confidence at all” that the government won’t abuse the use of its surveillance programs (57%) or that it can be trusted to keep the information it collects safe from hackers (58%).
- **The public is especially concerned about government workers having access to Americans’ personal information.** Of ten statements tested related to government surveillance, the two that the public found most concerning focused on how these programs allow federal government workers and contractors to have access to Americans’ personal financial information (70% very concerning) and their emails (70% very concerning).
- **Younger Americans are even more supportive of limits to government surveillance.** Our poll findings contradict the conventional wisdom that younger generations value their privacy less than older ones. Americans under 50 are even more opposed to maintaining the status quo when it comes to the NSA’s surveillance programs (63% oppose) than those over 50 (54% oppose).

<sup>1</sup> This memo is based on the results of a national poll conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research. The poll of N=803 adults was conducted November 11-17, 2013. At least 30% of all interviews were conducted via cell phone and interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.