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I thank the distinguished Chair of the House Permanent Select Committee for bringing this bill to the floor. As he said, it is not perfect, and there are some things that have developed since the committee sent this bill to the floor, but on balance, we need it and I support it.

I am pleased that the bill includes language I developed that mandates video recording of detainee interrogations by the Central Intelligence Agency. This provision's purpose is simple: to improve the intelligence operations of the CIA and enhance our national security by ensuring the video recording of each detainee interrogation. It requires the Director of the CIA to promulgate and to provide to Congress the guidelines under which such video recording shall be done. And it requires that the video recordings have to be maintained and so forth. I note that this provision is extremely similar to the one that was included in last year's National Defense Authorization Act and that now serves as the legal basis for video recording of detainee interrogations within the Department of Defense.

The benefits of video recording and electronically recording interrogations are evident, and law enforcement organizations across the United States routinely use the practice to both protect the person being interrogated and the officer conducting the interrogations and, importantly, to get better, more useful information. Clearly, the CIA itself valued this tool as well, otherwise it would not have made the recordings that it did of interrogations of "high-value" detainees that were captured in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. The amendment will allow the CIA Director to determine how to conduct the recordings in a way that protects the identity of interrogators and protects other material that must be kept secret.

Finally, the bill also advances some of my other priorities, including a sustained emphasis on improving foreign language capabilities, expanding GAO's ability to conduct investigations of

Improving Interrogation Oversight

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intelligence community activities, and a long-overdue declassification review requirement for gulf war illness-related records at the CIA.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.