

**HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
111TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION**

**Statement of
Chairman Silvestre Reyes**

Intelligence Community Management Subcommittee

October 22, 2009

Today's hearing is the first of several hearings on congressional notification that the Intelligence Committee will conduct, both open and closed.

These hearings are part of a full-Committee investigation into the symptoms that make up the broader issue of the timely and accurate notification to the congress of intelligence activities. I've asked the Subcommittee to look into the state of the law on notifications, and I thank the Chairwoman for her work in this regard.

In other aspects of the Committee's investigation, we will be looking into specific instances in which the Community may have fallen short of its obligations.

Today, though, Chairwoman Eshoo has assembled for us two distinguished and expert witnesses with a long background in the national security law and intelligence. You could say that these gentlemen had ring-side seats to the debates that led to the key provisions of the law we will be discussing today.

This is a serious subject, one that goes to the heart of what this Committee's obligation to conduct thorough oversight of the intelligence activities of the United States.

I appreciate that we work in a political body, and that sometimes more provincial issues can take center-stage. I hope that we remain focused today on the larger question of what the requirements are for notification of intelligence activities. We'll have opportunities later to discuss specific instances as they may apply broadly across our country, but today is not that day.

Again, thank you to the witnesses, and to the Chairwoman, and I yield back.