

Wayne Allard

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SENATE OPPOSES ‘KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER’ REGULATIONS Allard Receives Unanimous Support on Amendment Efforts

Washington, D.C. — Colorado U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today received unanimous support by the Senate for his efforts to enact an amendment to oppose the “Know Your Customer” regulations. This amendment prohibits the four principle financial regulators: The Federal Reserve, FDIC, the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision from enacting proposed regulations that would allow the four to require banks, and thrifts to report any “unusual” activity on individual savings and checking accounts. The amendment was co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Mike Enzi (R-WY) and supported by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), chairman of the Banking Committee.

“The American people have won a big victory today in the U.S. Senate,” Allard said following the vote. “The U.S. Senate has sent a strong message today that they are not going to tolerate federal banking agencies attempts to force banks to spy on their customers checking account and savings transactions. These regulations are unwarranted, an invasion of privacy, and my hope is that after the Senate’s action today these proposed regulations will be withdrawn.”

The ‘Know Your Customer’ regulations have been proposed by the four banking regulators: the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision. These regulations would allow banks to snoop through customers’ bank accounts under the guise of looking for “suspicious activity.” Banks would have to know the source of funds for all financial transactions, and would be required to report any activity that does not fit a “normal” or “expected” profile to the FBI or DEA.

By a vote of 0-88, the Senate voted not to table the Allard amendment. Allard introduced legislation to prohibit implementation of the proposed regulations in early February. He attempted to