

**Short Biographical Summary of Kevin S. Bankston
Policy Director of New America's Open Technology Institute
& Co-Director of New America's Cybersecurity Initiative**

**Before the U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Information Technology
of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

Hearing on "Encryption Technology and Possible U.S. Policy Responses"

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Kevin Bankston is the Policy Director of New America's Open Technology Institute (OTI), where he works in the public interest to promote policies that support open and secure communications networks, platforms, and technologies, with a particular focus on issues of Internet surveillance and cybersecurity.

Prior to leading OTI's policy team, Kevin was a Senior Counsel and the Director of the Free Expression Project at the Center for Democracy & Technology, a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting democratic values and constitutional liberties in the digital age. From that position, he spent two years advocating on a wide range of Internet and technology policy issues both international and domestic, most recently organizing a broad coalition of Internet companies and civil society organizations to demand greater transparency around the US government's surveillance practices. He also has served since 2005 on the board of the First Amendment Coalition, a non-profit public interest organization dedicated to advancing free speech and a more open and accountable government, is a Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project, and previously served as a nonresidential fellow with the Stanford Law School's Center for Internet & Society.

Prior to joining CDT, he worked for nearly a decade at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, specializing in free speech and privacy law with a focus on government surveillance, Internet privacy, and location privacy. As a Senior Staff Attorney at EFF, he regularly litigated issues surrounding free expression and electronic surveillance, and was a lead counsel in EFF's lawsuits challenging the legality of the National Security Agency's warrantless wiretapping program that was first revealed in 2005. He originally joined EFF as an Equal Justice Works/Bruce J. Ennis First Amendment Fellow, studying the impact of post-9/11 anti-terrorism surveillance initiatives on online privacy and free expression. Before joining EFF, he litigated Internet-related free speech cases at the national office of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York City as a Justice William Brennan First Amendment Fellow. He received his JD at the University of Southern California Law School after receiving his BA at the University of Texas at Austin.