

Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson said Wednesday he supports extension of the 2004 Patriot Act with possible revisions to make it "no more intrusive than is absolutely necessary."

The post-Sept. 11, 2001, anti-terrorism law presents the challenge of reaching "a very delicate balance" between national security and personal security and too much government, he said.

"My belief is we need to continue to have the Patriot Act in some form in place," Nelson said during a telephone conference call from Washington. "We need to have the Patriot Act or something like it."

A day earlier, the law hit a snag in the House when a vote to extend three surveillance provisions in the act failed to receive the two-thirds supermajority required at that stage of consideration.

The House voted 277-148 and will consider the issue again when only a majority will be required.

Nebraska Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, **Lee Terry** and Adrian Smith all voted to extend the law.

Included among the anti-terrorism tools that would be extended until Dec. 8 is the authority for court-approved wiretaps that permit surveillance on multiple phones.

While it is important to continue to have surveillance safeguards, Nelson said, "you don't want to give up personal rights any more than is absolutely necessary."

On another matter, he applauded the Nebraska Legislature for enacting a bill last year approving the use of \$59 million in federal funding to assist Nebraska schools.

The federal education jobs bill was designed to enable states to use the funding this year, he said.

