

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee:

I write to you to express my concern about some provisions in the Government's recent Anti-Terrorism Bill, in particular those relating to sedition. The law as currently phrased makes almost any criticism of the government seditious, and clearly outlaws some "radical" opinions as republicanism or advocating for any change in our constitution. Such a law goes to the heart of our freedom of speech, and simple assurances that it won't be used in such a way can never be enough. We shouldn't have to rely on such assurances, the law should not allow itself to be used in such a way and our freedom of speech must be preserved before all else. We cannot sacrifice our liberty for security or else, as Benjamin Franklin said, we will deserve neither.

Sincerely,

Tom Dawkins, Newtown, NSW