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Through the time that America has been a country, it was promised by its government that every American would have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But have they really? Everyday countless rights promised to Americans are infringed upon, but no one has tried to fix it. In the words of the 4th Amendment "The right of the people to be secure in their houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated. . ." I can think of endless ways our government has compromised this Liberty daily. To keep it short, mainly in the workplace, and through electronic surveillance.

In today's world, finding a job in America is one of the hardest things to do. Once a person thinks they found a job they're suddenly asked for their social media passwords, most of the time a person deciding whether not to give their personal accounts to a future employer could lead to not getting the job at all. Yes, I know some private businesses require private things, but where's the line between needed information and the right to privacy? The problem is that congress is more concerned with trying to find suspected terrorist's and don't give much thought on businesses infringing the 4th amendment. These situations mostly occur in private businesses who monitor their employees, not all jobs are obviously this way. In 2013, there was a call for U.S action against Internet privacy laws, around 10 states passed their own individual laws because congress simply chose to do nothing about it. It's a good start to protect the privacy of Americans, but there's still another 40 or so states that have nothing. Over the past two years more states have tried to pass their own bills, some approved and some failed. Still, for the equality amongst all Americans something needs to be done about this on a national level.

Through the past decade terrorism has been real, and for the government that's just cause to push aside the 4th amendment all together. In recent news of the San Bernardino shooting, it marked the 75th terrorist plot on the United States since 9/11. After 9/11 president George bush signed a presidential order in 2002 allowing the NSA to monitor Americans without a warrant. This consisted of emails, texts, and telephone calls. There was no judicial oversight, and went against the 4th amendment. It is clearly illegal. That kind of control over people is so invasive, and can lead to the down fall of an individual. Apparently it's all legal, under different acts, Title III and the electronic communications privacy act (ECPA) that governs criminal wiretaps, and FISA (Foreign intelligence surveillance acts) which allows of eavesdropping on agents of "foreign powers". Other presidents in the past tried to get their own versions of monitoring Americans passed, but all attempts got shut down by the Supreme Court, so how did Bush get away with it? My theory is simply because a year before one of the worst terrorist attacks occurred on U.S soil, and the need for monitoring was greater than ever. Over the last decade only a handful of terrorist have been stopped electronically, but is it worth the privacy of the citizens of the United states? The government using the excuse to electronically surveillance it citizens in wake of terrorism is blatantly going against this amendment.

In conclusion, the fourth amendment is trickling away. The government is more preoccupied with catching terrorist than they are worried about their own citizens privacy. Yes, stopping terrorism is a good thing, but when you lose the trust of your citizens by monitoring them is it really worth it in the long run? I'm not sure how to fix this problem simply because everything is digital now. Everything we do on the Internet is stored somewhere, most people not even knowing that. With social media websites working with the government, it's nearly impossible to obtain any type of privacy. Big Brother is truly watching.