



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
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The Special Counsel

May 28, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

I write to urge you to introduce and pass legislation permanently designating July 30th as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day (NWAD). As you may know, this day commemorates the passage of the very first whistleblower law by the United States Congress on July 30th, 1778. Since it passed this legislation, Congress has continued to make clear that government whistleblowers should feel empowered to disclose wrongdoing and be protected from retaliation when they do so. By dedicating a day to these brave public servants, we not only honor the contributions of current whistleblowers, but we show potential whistleblowers that their sacrifices will not go unnoticed or unappreciated. And we make clear that retaliation against a whistleblower will not be tolerated. What better way to demonstrate to the world that the United States government is a model employer—one not afraid to uncover waste, fraud, and abuse from within—than to permanently recognize the contributions of these courageous civil servants each year.

If there is not enough time to enact a law this year, I urge both the House and the Senate to pass resolutions honoring whistleblowers on NWAD. For the past ten years, the United States Senate has unanimously recognized July 30th as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, a bipartisan initiative led by Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus Co-Chairs Charles Grassley and Ron Wyden. This resolution has played a central role in fostering a culture of appreciation for whistleblowers. We thank all Caucus members for their continued leadership and look forward to the House having an opportunity to join in this important initiative.

The main goal of this day is education, but it is also validation for those who have stepped forward in the past to understand that they are not alone. I ask that each chamber of Congress build on this momentum and use this opportunity to encourage more individuals to come forward and blow the whistle on wrongdoing.

As the head of the agency charged with vindicating federal employee whistleblowers' rights, I respectfully request you establish this day to reinforce the longstanding bipartisan consensus that

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whistleblowers serve an invaluable role in our government. For our part, OSC will begin requiring all agencies participating in our 5 U.S.C. 2302(c) Certification Program to promote NWAD as part of their annual re-certification. OSC's 2302(c) Certification Program helps agencies comply with their congressionally mandated responsibility to inform employees of their whistleblower rights and protections and to make that information available on agency websites.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to working with you to promote a pro-whistleblower culture in our government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hampton Dellinger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hampton Dellinger
Special Counsel

cc: Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus
Senator Ron Wyden, Vice Chairman of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus