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OSC Applauds House Passage of OSC Reauthorization Bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) commends the House of Representatives for passing the Thoroughly Investigating Retaliation Against Whistleblowers Act ([H.R. 4639](#)) yesterday. The legislation would reauthorize OSC until 2021. Importantly, the legislation clarifies OSC's authority to request and receive all agency information. Agencies should not be able to shield managers from accountability or hide retaliatory conduct by withholding information from OSC.

This and other important reforms in the legislation will strengthen OSC's ability to carry out its good government mission on behalf of federal workers and the taxpayers. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved its version of an OSC reauthorization bill ([S. 2968](#)) in May.

"Rep. Rod Blum and the other sponsors of this legislation deserve our thanks for working to strengthen OSC's ability to protect federal whistleblowers," said Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner. "OSC reauthorization will give us additional tools to protect federal employees and save taxpayer dollars."

In December, Special Counsel Lerner [testified](#) before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on OSC reauthorization.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing, and to serve as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.