

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to bring your attention to and encourage swift action on the issue of whistleblower protection for federal employees. Whistleblowers are our nation's best resource against fraud and abuse of the public trust. Over the years, whistleblowers have repeatedly sounded the alarm about fiscal practices that waste tax dollars. In the national security realm, whistleblowers have effectively and responsibly called attention to security vulnerabilities that threaten the lives of U.S. citizens. Moreover, they have worked to prevent violations of the constitutional values we all share.

In these uncertain economic times, we should encourage courageous public servants to continue to report evidence of misconduct on behalf of American taxpayers and families. Unfortunately, we cannot expect government employees to continue to sacrifice their careers and risk their own families' security without signals from your Administration that they will be protected.

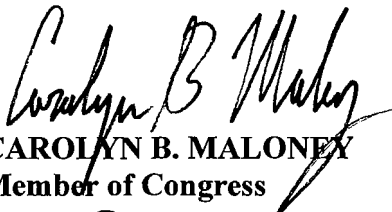
As you may know, "legal" victories for employees who have been retaliated against for blowing the whistle are almost non-existent. We encourage you to support congressional efforts to reform the inadequate system of whistleblower protections, such as H.R. 1507, introduced this year by Representatives Van Hollen and Platts.

In addition to these forward-looking reforms, we encourage you to take action to restore the careers of employees who were wrongly terminated or marginalized by previous administrations after blowing the whistle. Specifically, we recommend the issuance of an Executive Order establishing a program to review individual cases, and where significant injustice has occurred, to make the employee whole by restoring them to government service. The country can undoubtedly benefit from the professionalism and expertise of many of the employees who were wrongly removed from federal service. While we recognize there will need to be significant fine-tuning of this proposal, we recommend the principles endorsed in a letter sent to your office on January 16, 2009 by the following relevant organizations including: The American Federation of Government Employees, The Bill of Rights Foundation, The Government Accountability Project, The National Taxpayers Union, The National Whistleblower Center, Openthegovernment.org, The Project on Government Oversight, The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and The Whistleblower Mentoring Project.

This would send a strong signal that there will be zero tolerance for whistleblower retaliation in your Administration. In addition, it would go a long way in complementing your already-announced Freedom of Information Act reforms toward establishing a new, global gold standard for accountability and transparency in government.

We thank you for considering our suggestions, and look forward to working with you on these reforms.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

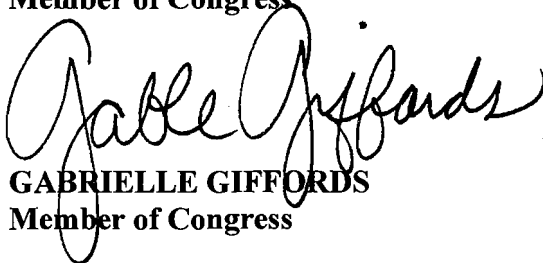

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