

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Boehner
The Speaker of the House of
Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader of the House of
Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader of the Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President and Leaders of Congress:

The undersigned write to urge you to publicly recognize the courage of whistleblowers by supporting [National Whistleblower Appreciation Day](#). On July 30th, 1778 at the height of the American Revolution, our Founding Fathers unanimously passed what very well may be the world's first law supporting whistleblowers and recognizing the right of all citizens to report "misconduct, frauds and misdemeanors" to the "appropriate authority."

Whistleblowers are our first and best line of defense against fraud and misconduct. Every day they save the taxpayers' money, protect the public safety, and play a vital role in ensuring government and corporate accountability.

However, many Americans who have witnessed misconduct and corruption fear they will be retaliated against by their employer or unsupported by the government after risking their careers to report violations of law. Setting July 30th aside to recognize the wisdom of the Founding Fathers' vision and celebrate the accomplishments of whistleblowers will alleviate that fear. It will help transform a culture where hostility towards whistleblowers is all too common promote integrity and accountability.

We strongly commend the Senate for passing the [2013](#) and [2014](#) resolutions recognizing National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. We urge the Senate to do the same again this year and urge the House of Representatives to recognize the day as well. We also urge Congress and the President to work together to introduce legislation marking National Whistleblower

Appreciation Day as a permanent day recognizing the historic actions of our Founding Fathers and celebrating the contributions of whistleblowers.

As part of the legislation we urge Congress to require the heads of each federal agency use that day as an opportunity to set the ‘tone at the top,’ calling public attention to the contributions whistleblowers have made to American democracy and their own agencies. The legislation should mandate that during the week upon which July 30th falls each year all federal agencies should highlight the role whistleblowers have played in their agencies to combat waste, fraud, and abuse and enforce the laws of the land.

Having the head of each federal agency publicly acknowledge the [value of whistleblowers](#) will play a critical role in changing the perception of whistleblowers. [Designating July 30th as a permanent occasion to celebrate whistleblowers will create an opportunity and a platform to change a culture that all too often prevents law enforcement from learning about waste, fraud and abuse that harms the taxpayers, into one that actively encourages citizens to play a role in combating fraud and corruption.](#)

On July 30th, 1778, our Founding Fathers made it clear that bringing misconduct and abuse to light was a fundamental part of being a citizen in the new democracy. They [unanimously resolved](#):

“That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge.”

Our Founding Fathers foresaw that whistleblowers would play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of our democratic institutions and protecting our nation from fraud and corruption. Whistleblowers have succeeded remarkably in this role. It is time our government officially recognize the foresight of our Founding Fathers.

Respectfully submitted,