



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



May 25, 2021

Ms. Mary Jane Wilmoth  
Interim Executive Director  
National Whistleblower Center  
1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 624  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Wilmoth:

I am writing in response to your April 21, 2021, letter to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra concerning implementing educational programming for HHS to commemorate National Whistleblower Day, celebrated each year on July 30. The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) treats whistleblower protection very seriously, as whistleblowers are important allies in the fight against fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal programs and operations. OIG enthusiastically supports National Whistleblower Day and will engage in activities to commemorate the day.

As the designated Whistleblower Protection Coordinator who is responsible for educating all HHS employees on prohibitions against retaliation for protected whistleblower disclosures and the rights and remedies available to employees who are retaliated against, I am pleased to share information about a few of the initiatives that OIG has taken over the past year to support whistleblower protection. These initiatives were designed to help ensure that HHS employees, contractors, and grantees are aware of their rights to safely report fraud, waste, abuse, and unlawful activity without the threat of reprisal. These initiatives include:

- Issuing virtual learning sessions for HHS employees, grantees, and contractors geared toward providing whistleblower protection education. The 10 learning sessions were coordinated with multiple HHS Operating and Staff Divisions, and were attended by hundreds of grantees, contractors, and HHS employees. A virtual learning session prepared for one HHS Operating Division, the Administration for Children and Families, is located on our [website](#).
- Including on our website [Frequently Asked Questions on whistleblower protections and retaliation remedies](#), a comprehensive [Whistleblower Protection Information brochure](#), and a [whistleblower protection notice](#) for HHS contractors and grantees to serve as educational tools for those seeking information on Federal whistleblower protections. OIG has also revamped its [Whistleblower Protection Coordinator](#) and [OIG Hotline](#) webpages to include pertinent information about whistleblower protections and protected disclosures.

- Launching a Whistleblower Protection Awareness Campaign, which was held February 10–15, 2021, and included multiple OIG social media posts on whistleblower protections. The campaign resulted in an increase of 130 visitors to the OIG’s whistleblower webpages that week, with over 3,000 impressions on Twitter, 550 impressions on Facebook, and 1,750 impressions on LinkedIn. Our media content was also shared by several law enforcement partners, which resulted in thousands of followers receiving information about HHS whistleblower protections.

These initiatives have resulted in a greater number of contacts to our agency about whistleblower protections. In addition to these activities, OIG regularly coordinates with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency’s Whistleblower Protection Coordinators Working Group, Office of Special Counsel, Congress, and other stakeholders to advance whistleblower protections at HHS and across the Federal Government.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 578-6187.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EJ Esters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Eyana J. Esters  
Whistleblower Protection Coordinator