



March 18, 2022

Office of State Senator Scott Wilk  
1021 O Street, Room 7640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for California Senate Bill 947 (Wilk)**

Dear Senator Scott Wilk,

I am writing on behalf of National Whistleblower Center in support of Senate Bill 947, which would provide whistleblower protections to the employees of entities holding state no-bid contracts over \$25 million. While California's private employees enjoy some whistleblower protections, these protections pale in comparison to the protections afforded to state employees and do not go far enough in protecting Californians.

The protections afforded state employees would be reasonably extended to no-bid employees and protect the public interest. Existing protections for private employees simply do not go far enough: unlike state employees, who can freely report waste, fraud, abuse of authority, violation of law, or threat to public health without fear of retribution, private employees can only file Cal/OSHA complaints and report violations of the law.

Employees conducting work through state contracts are working on behalf of the state, using state funds to accomplish state goals, and should be free to report fraud, waste, and abuse with the **same level of protection from retaliation that state employees enjoy**.

National Whistleblower Center advocates for stronger whistleblower protections worldwide, and we consistently emphasize the importance of confidentiality and anonymity, anti-retaliation protections, and rewards for whistleblowers, as critical elements of any successful whistleblower law. Senate Bill 947 is an important step toward stronger anti-retaliation protections, and a step in the right direction. Thank you for your leadership on this issue, we hope others take action to protect whistleblowers on the state level just as you strive to do.

Sincerely,

Siri Nelson  
Executive Director  
National Whistleblower Center

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