



Protect the Integrity of IRS Whistleblower Program: Pass S. 625 as Amendment to H.R. 7024

Dear Senator Crapo:

March 4, 2024

Thank you for your tremendous work protecting whistleblowers.

I am reaching out to urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to have the *IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act* included in H.R. 7024, the bipartisan tax bill making its way to the Senate. Title VI of the *Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024* is dedicated to Tax Administration and Eliminating Fraud. This legislation is tailor made to improve the operation of the IRS Whistleblower Program and combat fraud. It belongs in this legislation.

As you know, tax whistleblowers have brought in over \$6.6 billion for the IRS, helped to identify 4,700 names and accounts of U.S. citizens who have engaged in tax fraud, and led to the indictment of over 120 criminal U.S. taxpayers and tax advisors. The IRS Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program alone, which was initiated after the UBS whistleblower case, brought forth \$11.1 billion in taxes, interest, and penalties.

However, despite returning billions of dollars to the pockets of American taxpayers, IRS whistleblowers continue to face unnecessary hurdles that would be addressed by your bill. An IRS report revealed that the average time to process a whistleblower case is over 11 years. These debilitating delays undermine the efficacy of the IRS program.

H.R. 7024 presents the prime opportunity for passing the *IRS Whistleblower Improvement Act*. An S. 625 amendment would fit well within the purview of the bill, particularly given that H.R. 7024 is paid for by clamping down on fraud in the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) program.

I understand that H.R. 7024 may be the last opportunity to get S. 625 attached to a tax bill this year, and given the importance of improving the IRS Whistleblower Program, I ask that you



prioritize having it included. This bill is too important to remain on the sidelines, and it is already long overdue.

I know that I am not alone in my concern. According to a 2020 Marist Poll (whistleblowers.org/marist-wb-poll/), 81% of voters nationally believe that stronger whistleblower laws should be a priority for Congress, and 44% of National likely voters said that support for stronger whistleblower laws would make them more likely to support a candidate. There is no opposition to S. 625 – it has bipartisan and bicameral support, it has been through the vetting process and modified to remove any concerns, and therefore it should pose no issue if the Senate decides to make changes to H.R. 7024.

Please reach out to the National Whistleblower Center with any questions (info@whistleblowers.org, sk@kkc.com), and find more information here: whistleblowers.org/revitalize-the-irs-whistleblower-program/. We also understand that Senator Grassley has prioritized adding the amendment to the bill, so please let us know if we can arrange a meeting with both of your offices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Siri Nelson

Executive Director, National Whistleblower Center

/s/ Stephen M. Kohn

Chairman of the Board, National Whistleblower Center