



July 17, 2025

Senator Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

CC:

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Chuck Grassley,

The undersigned organizations enthusiastically thank you for your leadership in joining with Senator Peters to co-sponsor the Expanding Whistleblower Protection for Government Contractors Act. Passed out of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC) as S.1524 in March 2024 with a unanimous vote, this legislative text has the bipartisan and consensus support to become law today – and ensure that all whistleblowers are fully protected when they come forward with evidence of fraud, waste, and abuse.

In the past few years, there was over four trillion dollars in new spending, with most of the work done by contractors. Unfortunately, the spending has been matched by unprecedented misspending. The Justice Department Inspector General conservatively estimated over \$100 billion in COVID-19 fraud alone after the first two years.

As longstanding whistleblower champion in the Senate and the Chair of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus, we are proud to have worked with your staff over the decades to codify whistleblower protections into law.

There can be no credible debate that whistleblowers are America's best weapon against fraud, waste and abuse. Whistleblowers have been acknowledged and honored since the Founding Fathers, and no substitute for safe channels of testimony by those who bear witness in law enforcement investigations. This legislation would ensure they are able to do so.

As we wrote to Chair Paul and Ranking Member Peters, "S.1524 deserved the unanimous vote of approval it earned [in 2024 in committee]. All accountability laws need periodic maintenance to plug loopholes, bolster weak links and act on lessons learned. While America's government contractor whistleblower law was an effective accountability breakthrough for the 2008 stimulus, it has not been updated for almost a decade. The result is that the taxpayers increasingly have been getting fleeced. In the face of unprecedented government spending, the accountability vacuum must be filled."

This legislation is a true story of bipartisan Senate work. Senators Peters (D-Michigan) and Braun (R-Indiana) introduced the legislation together in May 2023. Senator Paul (R-Kentucky), as the then-Ranking Member and now Chair of the committee of jurisdiction, worked with then-Chair Peters to draft amended language to close an important intelligence community whistleblower. In May 2024, the legislation received consideration in a full committee markup and gained unanimous, bipartisan support: In the language of the Senate, it was “ordered reported favorably by roll call vote (11 Yeas, 0 Nays)”. Senators Peters, Hassan, Rosen, Ossoff, Blumenthal, Butler, Paul, Johnson, Scott, Hawley and Marshall all voted in support, with three additional proxy votes in support from Carper, Sinema, and Lankford. (The legislative text called, in the language of the Senate, “Modification to Peters Substitute Amendment to S.1524” was then adopted by unanimous consent.)

The bleeding from contract abuse must stop without further delay. The **Expanding Whistleblower Protection for Government Contractors Act** is unsurpassed as a noncontroversial way to achieve that goal, and we thank you for your co-sponsorship of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Empower Oversight
Government Accountability Project
Project on Government Oversight
National Security Counselors
National Taxpayers Union
National Whistleblower Center
Transparency International
Whistleblowers of America