

10 November 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Ranking Member of the Armed Services  
Committee  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman of the Armed Services Committee  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Amendment to Modernize Government Contractor Whistleblower Rights in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act**

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for Senator Warren's proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (S.Amdt.3899 to S.Amdt.3867 amending H.R.4350), to modernize America's outdated whistleblower laws for government contractor and grantee employees. The amendments would apply to all new multi-trillion dollar spending and all federal coronavirus relief programs.

New government spending to address the devastating effects of COVID-19 and domestic priorities such as infrastructure spending could exceed trillions of dollars. The lion's share will go to contractors and grantees for activities by over seven million contractor employees paid with federal funds, compared to less than two million civil service workers. With this unprecedented surge in spending, best practice whistleblower rights are essential to minimize fraud, waste, and abuse. When President Obama proposed what was enacted as a \$700 billion stimulus spending increase, a bi-partisan congressional coalition created the whistleblower protections that Inspectors General credited with minimizing fraud and waste. Unfortunately, those safeguards have become badly dated, substantially weakening America's ability to fight corruption. This whistleblower amendment would upgrade outdated laws to current best practices by:

- protecting government contractors and grantees from retaliation for blowing the whistle, not just their employees;
- protecting public health workers excluded from coverage under the Affordable Care Act;
- ending the international loophole for U.S. contractor whistleblowers working in foreign locations;
- ending the technical sovereign immunity loophole that has canceled protection for all state and local employees who blow the whistle;
- adding protection against blocklisting;
- strengthening confidentiality protections for whistleblowers.

These added protections will provide essential updates to important but outdated rights. While inspired by the surge in spending for COVID-19, the amendment would modernize the full scope of government contractor whistleblower laws and provide protections that match global best practices.

America has never needed these rights more than right now. Protection for whistleblowers is protection for American taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Accountability Lab

ACORN8

Advocating Opportunity

Affiliation of Christian Engineers

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Alliance for Human Research Protection

Agape Healing Hearts

Alliance to Counter Crime Online

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

American Environmental Watch

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.

Arab American Institute (AAI)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Better Government Association

Beyond Pesticides

Blacks in Law Enforcement of America

Blue Wave Postcard Movement

Center for Auto Safety

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Justice & Democracy

Center for Media and Democracy

Center for Policing Equity

Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Center on Illicit Networks & Transnational Organized Crime  
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm  
Citizens Awareness Network  
Clean Elections Texas  
Coalition for Integrity  
CODEPINK  
Community Research  
Community Science Institute, Inc.  
Constitutional Alliance  
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Consumer Action  
Corruption Kills  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Citizens Awareness Network  
Climate Science Legal Defense Fund  
Defending Rights and Dissent  
Demand Progress  
DemCast USA  
Dialysis Advocates & Associates Inc  
EarthRights International  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Equality Labs  
Faiths for Safe Water  
Federally Employed Women  
Fight for the Future  
Fix Democracy First  
Food & Water Watch

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Freedom Network USA  
Greenpeace USA  
Good Jobs First  
Government Accountability Project  
Government Information Watch  
Hanford Challenge  
Human Rights First  
Immigration Action Alliance  
In the Public Interest  
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health  
Jobs to Move America  
Justice in Motion  
Kentucky Environmental Foundation  
Kentucky Resources Council  
Kohn, Kohn and Colapinto  
Mehri & Skalet PLLC  
Muslim American Law Enforcement Association  
National Center for Health Research  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Freedom of Information Coalition  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Lawyers Guild International Committee  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Organization for Women  
National Security Counselors  
National Taxpayers Union  
National Whistleblower Center  
National Whistleblower Legal Defense & Education Fund  
Network for Responsible Public Policy  
No More Guantanamos  
Northwest Environmental Advocates  
Nuclear Watch New Mexico  
NY, NJ, TN Environmental Watch  
Open The Government  
Oregon Wildlife Federation  
Our Bodies Ourselves  
Our Maryland  
Pax Christi USA  
PRESS4WORD  
Privacy Times  
Professional Managers Association  
Project Censored and the Media Freedom Foundation  
Project on Government Oversight (POGO)  
Project Lifeline  
Protect Democracy  
Public Citizen  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)  
Public Justice Center  
RepresentUs New Mexico  
Revolving Door Project  
Safe Harbor Law, LLC  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Southern Anti-Racism Network  
Stand Up America  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance  
Temp Worker Justice  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Ectopian Society  
The Employment Law Group, P.C.  
The James Madison Project  
The Law Office of Jan T. Aune  
The Rutherford Institute  
The Shalom Center  
The Signals Network  
The Workers Circle  
Transparency International — U.S. Office  
Tully Center for Free Speech  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
UNISHKA Research Service  
Washington Coalition for Open Government  
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
Whistleblower Aid  
Whistleblowers of America  
Whistleblower Network News  
WhistleblowersUK  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
Workplace Fairness  
X-Lab