

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 236

Designating July 30, 2015, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2015

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 30, 2015, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”.

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously enacted the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: “*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service

of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, D.C., 1904-37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, when providing proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save taxpayers in the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place;

Whereas whistleblowing is generally defined as the lawful disclosure of information reasonably believed to evidence a violation of law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a danger to public health or safety—and is in contrast to the unlawful disclosure of classified information that threatens the national security of the United States and that violates criminal law; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates July 30, 2015, as “National
3 Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

4 (2) ensures that the Federal Government imple-
5 ments the intent of the Founding Fathers, as re-
6 flected in the legislation enacted on July 30, 1778,
7 by encouraging each executive agency to recognize
8 National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

9 (A) informing employees, contractors work-
10 ing on behalf of United States taxpayers, and
11 members of the public about the legal rights of
12 citizens of the United States to “blow the whis-
13 tle” by honest and good faith reporting of mis-
14 conduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes
15 to the appropriate authorities; and

16 (B) acknowledging the contributions of
17 whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud,
18 abuse, and violations of laws and regulations in
19 the United States.

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