

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 231

Designating July 30, 2017, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2017

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AUGUST 1, 2017

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 30, 2017, 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 that was 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 the 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, DC, 1904–37), 11:732);

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

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of 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; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, 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—

1 (1) designates July 30, 2017, as “National
2 Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

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

8 (A) informing employees, contractors work-
9 ing on behalf of United States taxpayers, and
10 members of the public about the legal right of
11 a United States citizen to “blow the whistle” to
12 the appropriate authority by honest and good
13 faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, mis-
14 demeanors, or other crimes; and

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

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