

WAR ON



WHISTLEBLOWERS

FREE PRESS AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE

Action Guide



A PROJECT OF BRAVE NEW FOUNDATION

WAR COSTS

Greetings from Brave New Foundation and the War Costs Team!

In this action guide you will find information from our allies and partner organizations on ways you can fight back against the **War on Whistleblowers!**

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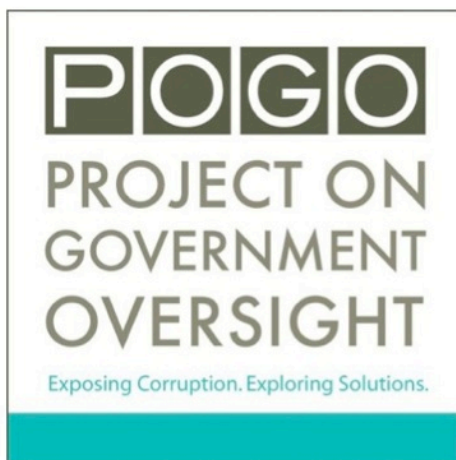
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The Project On Government Oversight

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

And our work doesn't end at investigating and exposing wrongdoing—we're also committed to advocating for solutions. Every year, we brief numerous members of Congress and the executive branch, and enable tens of thousands of citizens to get involved in good-government actions.

We've played a significant role in getting important reforms introduced and passed in Congress, as well as getting policy changes implemented in federal agencies. POGO's work has been applauded by Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, federal workers, whistleblowers, other nonprofit organizations, and the media.

Whistleblower Protections

Last year, Congress passed the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, which addressed many loopholes in the original Whistleblower Protection Act. However, the enhancements left the intelligence community unprotected—the people that especially need protections because of the sensitive nature of their information and the overwhelming need for more accountability. President Obama responded by issuing a Presidential Policy Directive that prohibited retaliation against intelligence and national security personnel who come forward with waste, fraud, abuse, and other illegality. However, more must be done. Congress must increase protections for that community through legislation to really improve accountability and protect these brave whistleblowers.

Contact your Members of Congress and write to President Obama to tell them that whistleblowers from every part of the government need authentic protections. Claims of national security must not be used to illegitimately keep secret information the public has a right to know.

Ways You Can Get Involved

To get involved with POGO's current campaigns to protect whistleblowers, make the government more accountable, and demand openness, visit www.pogo.org/do-something.

For our latest information, visit POGO's blog at www.pogo.org/blog, and follow us on Twitter [@POGOblog](https://twitter.com/pogoblog) ([www.twitter.com/pogoblog](https://twitter.com/pogoblog)) and Facebook at www.facebook.com/pogo.org.

You can also join our mailing list to receive new information and get links to new campaigns.

POGO is a member of the Make It Safe Campaign & Coalition. Visit them at www.makeitsafecampaign.org to learn how you can help protect whistleblowers and government officials who expose fraud, waste, and abuse.

It is the job of elected officials to listen to their constituents—so send messages to your Members of Congress and the White House! Better yet, call them and tell them the changes you want to see to make our government more effective, transparent, and accountable. Tell them national security should never be used as an excuse for secrecy, suppression of wrongdoing, or denying rights.

All of our efforts to protect whistleblowers and expose corruption in the federal government are thanks to the support of people like YOU, and we hope you will consider making a financial contribution to POGO.

The Government Accountability Project (GAP) is the nation's leading whistleblower protection and advocacy organization. Its mission is to promote corporate, government, and institutional accountability by protecting whistleblowers, advancing occupational free speech, and empowering citizen activists. Founded in 1977, GAP is a nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Since its inception, GAP has helped thousands of whistleblowers expose scandals that have shocked the public.



GAP achieves its mission in four ways:

- First, GAP offers whistleblowers **legal representation**. Acting similarly in nature to a public interest law firm, the organization represents, advises, and enjoys attorney-client privilege with those whistleblowers it accepts as clients. Unfortunately, due to limited time and resources, only approximately five percent of individuals who seek legal assistance are accepted.
- Second, GAP works with the media and other organizations to **publicize whistleblower concerns**. Clients regularly bring forward evidence of gross wrongdoing that poses threats to society, and GAP works to ensure that such disclosures receive maximum coverage in the public sphere, so that citizens are fully informed and that real and positive change can be effected.
- Third, GAP actively works with members of Congress to **strengthen whistleblower protections**. GAP has been directly involved with every major piece of federal legislation aimed at protecting whistleblowers over the last 30 years, including the Whistleblower Protection Act, Sarbanes Oxley Act, Food Safety Modernization Act, and Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act.
- Lastly, GAP works on **public education campaigns** so that citizens know what whistleblowing is, why it is important, and why occupational truth-tellers must be protected and recognized. An excellent example of such an endeavor is GAP's collegiate *American Whistleblower Tour*, which visits universities across the country and allows prominent whistleblowers to engage directly with our country's incoming workforce (*More at www.WhistleblowerTour.org*).

While GAP accepts whistleblowers from all kinds of industries and workplaces, we currently focus in the following program areas: Corporate & Financial Accountability, Environmental Concerns, Food Integrity, International Reform, National Security & Human Rights, and Public Health.

Getting Involved with GAP = Supporting Whistleblowers



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/GovernmentAccountabilityProject



**Donate to us today at Whistleblower.org/Donate
Your proceeds go directly toward helping whistleblowers!**



National Taxpayers Union (NTU) is the nation's oldest taxpayer advocacy organization. "The Voice of America's Taxpayers" has worked to make government more transparent and accountable to citizens, in addition to advocating for limited government, since our founding in 1969.

Throughout our history, NTU has worked to bring the fiscal-policy perspectives of whistleblowers to policymakers, the media, and the general public. This valuable information has proven to be a key resource for us in our successful campaigns for a variety of issues, including military procurement and pro-taxpayer reforms at the Internal Revenue Service. For many years NTU has been a proud and active participant in the movement for federal whistleblower protections, which achieved a key victory with passage of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act in late 2012.

The coalition that helped make that bill law still has much work ahead. Not only have courts repeatedly failed to sustain whistleblower protections, but also more comprehensive statutes are needed to shield those who speak out within government, particularly in the national security field.

Whistleblower protections are taxpayer protections. As the first line of defense against corruption, fraud, and waste, whistleblowers are instrumental to an honest, efficient, and affordable government. They deserve to be free from intimidation and the threat of retaliation when they speak out for the American public.

NTU will continue to stand behind courageous civil servants who stand up for taxpayers. To join NTU in these efforts to achieve accountable government, visit our website at NTU.org to become a member or contribute.

NTU is a non-profit, non-partisan, organization. In addition to fighting for transparency, we work to achieve responsible fiscal policy on behalf of taxpayers.

Donate [online](http://ntu.org/donate) at ntu.org/donate

Keep up with NTU on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NTU) & [Facebook](https://facebook.com/NationalTaxpayersUnion)



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Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit organization that has been standing up to corporate power and holding government accountable since 1971.

We fight for openness and democratic accountability in government; for the right of consumers to seek redress in the courts; for clean, safe and sustainable energy sources; for social and economic justice in trade policies; for strong health, safety and environmental protections; and for safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs and health care.

Protecting Whistleblowers

The government is supposed to serve the public's best interests. But, too often, corners are cut, resources are wasted, or worse, government agencies are defrauded or co-opted to serve narrow political or private interests.

When scientific research is altered or suppressed, when government contractors waste millions of taxpayer dollars, or when national security documents are falsified, government employees who witness these acts should be free to blow the whistle without fear of retribution.

For more about Public Citizen's whistleblower protection work, visit citizen.org/whistleblower-protections.

What You Can Do

To get involved with Public Citizen's current campaigns to protect whistleblowers, hold government accountable, fight for transparency and stand up to corporate power, visit citizen.org/action.

For the latest information on how Public Citizen is advocating for the public interest, read our blog at citizenvox.org.

To engage with Public Citizen on social media, visit facebook.com/publiccitizen and twitter.com/Public_Citizen.

Do you have a personal story of how you fought for government or corporate accountability? Let us know by sending an email to action@citizen.org.



For more than 40 years, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has provided free legal advice, resources, support and advocacy to protect the First Amendment and Freedom of Information rights of journalists working in areas where U.S. law applies, regardless of the medium in which their work appears.

The Reporters Committee was founded in response to the Nixon-era increase in federal subpoenas seeking journalists' confidential sources, and we have supported protection for reporters privilege ever since.

Although our professional media law services are limited to working journalists, we maintain one of the premiere media law websites (www.rcfp.org), with information always free and available to anyone. This includes:

- The 50-state **Open Government Guide**, a compendium of the open records and meetings laws in every state, arranged in a standard format that makes it easy to find information about a particular state and to compare laws across the country.
- The **Federal Open Government Guide**, which provides information on the federal Freedom of Information Act and other federal open government laws. Also available is its companion publication, **Federal FOIA Appeals Guide** that helps users navigate the sometimes daunting process of appealing federal FOIA denials.
- The **Digital Journalists Legal Guide**, an online resource of media legal topics with a particular focus on issues of importance to journalists working primarily online, such as libel, copyright, subpoenas, censorship and privacy.
- **RCFP.org** also offers free access to myriad resources, including **The First Amendment Handbook**, more than 30 topic-specific guides (such as **Police, Protesters and the Press**), our quarterly magazine, news updates, and media law briefs and letters.

For use away from the computer, the **Reporters Committee FirstAid mobile app** provides immediate data on open government laws by state to help journalists and others in the field who may find their access to meetings, courtrooms, documents and other official data blocked. The app is free for iPhone and iPad, Android, and Kindle in their stores, or www.rcfp.org/app.

Nearly 80 cents of every dollar that comes in to the Reporters Committee is turned around directly into programs and services. Since its founding, no journalist or media company has been charged for our assistance, whether it's research, coordinating and filing amicus briefs, or helping a reporter find local counsel. Our funding comes from corporate and foundation donations and grants, and help from individuals, who believe in protecting the First Amendment. Help us preserve a free press, go to www.rcfp.org/donate.



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