

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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Statement of Ranking Member Darrell Issa
“Protecting the Public from Waste, Fraud, and Abuse: H.R. 1507, the Whistleblower
Protection Enhancement Act of 2009.”
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Thank you Chairman Towns, for calling this important hearing on legislation to enhance whistleblower protections. As Members of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, we have a shared mandate to protect the public from waste, fraud and mismanagement in the federal government. It is my hope that we will be better suited to fulfill that mandate in the area of whistleblower protections after today’s hearing.

Today we will have the opportunity to hear testimony from experts and whistleblowers alike about the real-world potential consequences of this legislation. We will also have the opportunity to hear from the Obama Administration about its position on this legislation and on whistleblower protections for federal employees and contractors in particular.

During this hearing we will be able to examine current law that protects whistleblowers and review the need for strengthening those laws. We will also be able to highlight, discuss and explore any issues that may be raised by expanding existing whistleblower protections.

The support and protection of whistleblowers in the federal government is obviously vital to the rooting out of waste, fraud and mismanagement. Expansion of these laws may, however, raise some very important issues and create unintended real-world consequences when implemented.

This may particularly be the case with regard to our national security agencies. These agencies are tasked with unique missions, unlike any other in the federal government, that ultimately boil down to the protection of our citizens and nation.

Through today’s hearing we will be able to examine, and hopefully resolve, any and all of these issues as they pertain to our national security agencies.

Again, I thank Chairman Towns for calling this hearing and I look forward to hearing from the witnesses and the opportunity to examine the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2009.