

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings**

**H.R. 4043, Whistleblower Protection Extension Act**

**November 2, 2017**

I want to start by thanking Representative Blum for introducing this bill with me. And I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support in considering it today.

Senators Grassley and McCaskill have a companion bill in the Senate. This bill is strongly bipartisan.

The Whistleblower Protection Extension Act would require every Inspector General's Office to have a Whistleblower Protection Coordinator. The Whistleblower Protection Coordinator would help educate agency employees about whistleblower protection laws. This would help employees who want to blow the whistle know their rights, and it also would inform agency management that it is against the law to retaliate against whistleblowers.

This bill would require Whistleblower Protection Coordinators to provide whistleblowers who have suffered retaliation information about options to have their allegations evaluated.

No matter how strong we make our whistleblower protection laws, they will not help if whistleblowers do not know how to use those laws to get help. This bill would ensure that whistleblowers have an independent lifeline in the Office of the Inspector General to help guide them through the process.

This bill would make permanent a pilot program that was enacted as part of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act.

I urge the Committee to adopt this bipartisan measure to strengthen whistleblower protections.

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