**REP. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE

“Examining the Administration’s Treatment of Whistleblowers”

September 9, 2014

2:00 P.M., 2154 RHOB

**THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I appreciate youR holding this hearing to examine the administration’s treatment of whistleblowers. I ALSO THANK OUR WITNESSES FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING from them.**

**Federal whistleblowers serve an invaluable role in identifying waste, fraud, and abuse across the federal government. In many cases, the diligent oversight efforts undertaken by these government watchdogs shine a light on government abuse and as a result, we are better able to safeguard American lives and mitigate the waste of American taxpayer dollars. It is these brave men and women who informed the American people about the government's delay in delivering armored cars to Iraq and Afghanistan to reduce combat casualties from improvised explosive devices. Federal whistleblowers also detailed the cancellation of U.S. Air Marshals from flight protection duties despite the existence of confirmed and continued threats of potential terrorist highjackings. These dedicated government employees also reported the diversion of research funds that were set aside to treat veterans with traumatic brain injuries.**

**for many of these whistleblowers, doing the right thing and disclosing violations of law and fraud, waste, and Abuse comes at a high price. many have been subjected to acts of retaliation including the elimination of their job duties, reassignment to positions of no consequence, geographical relocation such as the relocation of their desks to basements or closets, misconduct investigations, suspensions, and termination.**

**Mr. maclean and Dr. van boven will testify how much their lives and the lives of their families were disrupted as a result of the retaliation they faced.**

**Unfortunately, whistleblower retaliation has been a longstanding problem over multiple administrations.**

**much has been accomplished to enhance whistleblower protections. Congress, with the support and commitment of president obama, passed the birpartisan whistleblower protection enhancement act in 2012 after more than a decade of reform efforts. This act strengthened protections for federal employees by closing judicially-created loopholes and extended new protections for government scientists and certain transportation security administration employees. the bill also created a two-year pilot.**

**That same year, The administration also extended whistleblower protections to intelligence community employees through a presidential directive. congress then followed through this year by codifying protections for national security employees in the intelligence authorization act.**

**Although congress and the administration can provide protections and avenues for redress, we cannot legislate culture.**

**that can only change by determined leadership, constant attention from congress, strong employee unions and vocal advocates.**

**despite the progress we have made, our work is not yet complete and i look forward to hearing from our witnesses about how much further we need to go.**

**THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. I YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.**

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