

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

During your State of the Union Address, you said that government “watchdogs are back” and have recovered billions of taxpayer dollars subjected to fraud. You said for “every dollar we put into fighting fraud, taxpayers get back at least ten times as much.” Whistleblowers play an integral role in accomplishing this mission and have been doing so since our nation’s founding.

Whistleblowers are patriotic heroes who help identify violations of laws, rules, regulations, gross mismanagement, abuses of authority, and threats to public health and safety. In many instances, they do so at risk to their careers, reputation, and even health. Whistleblowers have exposed waste, fraud, and abuse in just about every industry and agency in this country, and the issues they report have saved billions of taxpayer dollars. Aside from the money they have saved the taxpayer, whistleblowers help the government work better for the American people by exposing misconduct.

A Rose Garden ceremony on Whistleblower Appreciation Day with the President of the United States honoring whistleblowers for their courage and sacrifice sends a loud, clear message that our government leaders appreciate the importance of whistleblowers and retaliation will not be tolerated. It would inspire confidence in those who witness wrongdoing to stand up and do something to fix it. It would help build a culture of integrity where employees are not afraid to raise legitimate concerns because they know retaliators will be punished, not the whistleblower. I have asked every president since President Ronald Reagan to hold a Rose Garden ceremony to honor whistleblowers. No president has done so. I hope you will be the first.

In the Senate, I have dedicated my career to protecting the rights of whistleblowers through bipartisan legislative efforts and have urged my colleagues to support whistleblowers who shine a light on wrongdoing. Whistleblowers have helped to recover tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer funds lost to fraud and corruption and saved billions more by deterring would-be fraudsters. Instead of being treated like skunks at a picnic, let whistleblowers smell the roses at the White House and bask in the appreciation of a thankful nation well served by their efforts to shine a light on waste, fraud, and abuse. I hope we can work to ensure whistleblowers are protected and appreciated and our government remains transparent and accountable to the American people. After all, we answer to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget