GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS ON WORKING WITH WHISTLEBLOWERS

How to Support Constituents and Sources

The Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds is an independent, nonpartisan support office that advises the House on best practices for working with whistleblowers from the public and private sectors.

In what contexts may I work with whistleblowers?

As a Member of Congress, you may hear from whistleblower constituents or other sources who are seeking to inform you about alleged wrongdoing, or who otherwise are seeking your support in fending off retaliation. By working effectively with whistleblowers, you will:

- Better serve your constituents
- Increase the flow of pertinent information to your office
- Bolster your oversight role on the committees on which you serve

How is working with whistleblowers distinct from traditional casework?

Your office's work with whistleblowers may overlap with casework, but there are some key distinctions:

- It can last much longer than casework as your staff carefully investigates the matter
- It may require additional precautions due to the sensitivity of the issue and the risk of retaliation
- Specific laws establish the right for whistleblowers to communicate with Congress, and the House Code of Official Conduct requires whistleblower confidentiality

In turn, congressional staff need the tools to work effectively with whistleblowers—from the initial screening stage to resulting oversight. Is your office prepared for these interactions?

How can the Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds help?

Working with whistleblowers can be complex. Rest assured, the Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds provides confidential services to help you and your staff work effectively with whistleblowers, including:

- **Private trainings** on best practices for working with whistleblowers
- **Customized guidance** for the development of secure whistleblower intake and case management procedures
- **Confidential consultations** to assist your office in responding to whistleblowers
- **Technical expertise** around whistleblower legislation

> "The Office is a great resource for an under-appreciated part of our jobs serving constituents in often tricky matters."

> "It helped to establish baseline policies for intake and facilitating a complainant's issue."

83%

of House offices utilized the Office's services in the 118th Congress

WATCH THE 7-MINUTE TRAINING
Working with Whistleblowers: A Primer for Members *(Staff Academy)*

OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS

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