



# OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS



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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. All inquiries are treated confidentially.



## WHISTLEBLOWERS AND CONGRESS

Whistleblowers, those who disclose threats to the public interest, commonly contact Congress to expose wrongdoing and to seek support. Further, Congress' oversight work relies on vital disclosures from federal workers as well as private sector employees. In turn, offices need the tools to effectively work with whistleblowers—from the initial screening stage to resulting oversight.



### GENERAL AND PRIVATE TRAININGS

The Office offers the live, interactive training *Best Practices for Working with Whistleblowers*. It is the foundation of the *Working with Whistleblowers Curriculum*, available through the Staff Academy. Member offices and committees may also request private sessions for an informal Q&A and customized content.

Participants receive a manual and model materials on how to:

- Manage relationships with whistleblowers
- Establish an effective case management system
- Protect whistleblower information
- Navigate the legal landscape



### CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS

The Office provides confidential consultations to assist House Member offices and committees in responding to whistleblowers. The Office also provides technical guidance on whistleblower legislation.

*Note: The Office cannot receive disclosures from whistleblowers.*



### INTAKE PROCESSES

The Office is available to help Member offices and Committees establish:

- Whistleblower intake procedures
- Best practices for follow-up
- Guidelines to maintain confidentiality
- Systems to keep disclosures secure



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



One of the best trainings I have taken.



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



#### 118TH CONGRESS DATA

- 83% of all House offices utilized at least one of the Office's services
- 75% participated in a training
- Almost half utilized both the case consult and intake process development services

#### 2024 SURVEY DATA

- 51% of respondents work for a District Office and 49% of respondents work on Capitol Hill
- 92% of respondents have more confidence interacting with whistleblowers