

# 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 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 initiatives. 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 whistleblower intake procedures
- **Confidential consultations** to assist your office in responding to whistleblowers
- **Technical expertise** around whistleblower legislation

“The trainings provided to staff proved quite a help. Since whistleblower laws and procedures are pretty complicated, it was great to have experts help us understand how we can provide support to the folks who call in with whistleblower problems.”



“I found the comprehensive list of resources provided to me, the quick response time, and the ability to talk through situations over the phone with a staff member to be the most helpful.”

