115TH CONGRESS
2D Session

S. RES. 558

Designating July 30, 2018, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 28, 2018

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. ERNST, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY 12, 2018

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 30, 2018, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”.

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Conti-
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Tential Congress unanimously enacted the first whistle-
blower legislation in the United States that read: “Res-
solved, That it is the duty of all persons in the service
of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants
thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or
other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or mis-
demeanors committed by any officers or persons in the
service of these states, which may come to their knowl-
edge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in Journals
of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789, ed. Wor-
thington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904–37),
11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputa-
tions by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper
authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful dis-
closures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United
States billions of dollars each year and serve the public
interest by ensuring that the United States remains an
ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to en-
courage, in accordance with Federal law (including the
Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations)
and consistent with the protection of classified informa-
tion (including sources and methods of detection of clas-
sified information), honest and good faith reporting of
misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to
the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible:

Now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates July 30, 2018, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation enacted on July 30, 1778, by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of United States taxpayers, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to “blow the whistle” to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.