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# BILL NO. -----

DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2014, AS "NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY" AND REQUIRING OTHER ACTION.

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Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct 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 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 Continental Congress unanimously enacted the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: "Resolved, 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 misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge" (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, D.C., 1904-37), 11:732);

Whereas it is essential to change the workplace culture that often places whistleblowers at risk in their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, when providing proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save taxpayers in 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 encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified 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

*Resolved*, That the **Congress**--

(1) designates July 30th 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 **requiring** 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 **during the work week upon which July 30th falls each year**, about the legal rights of citizens of the United States to ``blow the whistle" by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes to the appropriate authorities; and

(B) **during the work week upon which July 30th falls each year**, acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations in the United States **through a public display(s) and other methods of communication that are available for viewing by employees of the agency and the general public**; and

(C) **during the work week upon which July 30th falls each year**, the head of each executive agency shall sign an affidavit to be published both in the *Federal Register* and on the website of each respective agency in which the head of the agency shall state the steps taken during the prior year to ensure that the Founding

**Father's intention of encouraging whistleblowing was honored by the agency, and set forth steps to be taken in the upcoming year to ensure that the intent of the Founding Fathers as expressed in their July 30, 1778 resolution is honored.**

**(3) on or before the first Monday of October of each year the Attorney General of the United States shall file a report to congress and issue a public report setting forth how each executive agency complied with the requirements of this resolution, and if the agency did not comply, what punitive steps the Attorney General has taken to ensure compliance.**