

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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February 12, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Hempowicz
Director of Public Policy
Project on Government Oversight
1100 G Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005

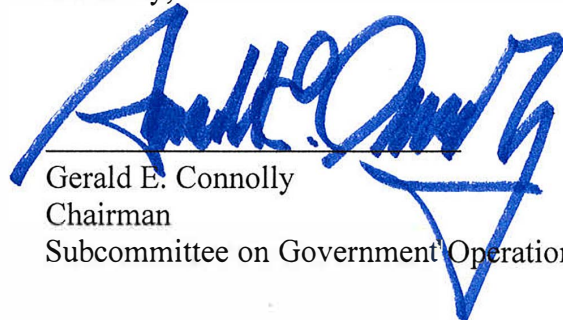
Dear Ms. Hempowicz:

Enclosed are questions that have been directed to you and submitted for the official record for the hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, titled "Protecting Those Who Blow the Whistle on Government Wrongdoing."

Please return your written responses to these questions by Wednesday, February 26, 2020, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member

Questions for Ms. Elizabeth Hempowicz
Director of Public Policy, Project on Government Oversight

Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

January 28, 2020, Hearing: "Protecting Those Who Blow the Whistle on Government Wrongdoing."

1. Your testimony discusses the importance of access to Congress for whistleblowers in the intelligence community and states that congressional committees of jurisdiction are "an avenue for protected disclosure." Why is it vital for whistleblowers to have access to Congress?
2. Are the laws that govern whistleblower access to Members of Congress or committees of Congress unclear?
3. How might existing provisions that provide direct whistleblower access to Congress be improved, reinforced, or clarified?
4. Are there currently penalties or consequences for a federal employee who prohibits whistleblower communication with Congress or for someone who retaliates against a whistleblower for communicating with Congress? Should there be penalties, and, if so, what might those penalties be?
5. What are the penalties for public officials who attack or "out" whistleblowers? Do penalties cover the White House and should they?
6. Do you believe we should legislate penalties against individuals who retaliate against whistleblowers? What should those penalties be?
7. Would you agree that the MSPB's administrative judges should undergo mandatory training in how to engage with whistleblowers?
8. Why is a fully functioning MSPB necessary to ensure whistleblowers are protected?
9. What can Congress do to provide relief to whistleblowers, given the lack of board members at the MSPB?
10. Current whistleblower laws do not protect non-career senior managers in the federal government. Is that something that should be changed?
11. What steps should Congress take to lessen the financial burden on whistleblowers?