



## **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Department of Homeland Security

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

Public Affairs (202) 254-4100

### **DHS OIG Commemorates National Whistleblower Protection Day**

Today, agencies across the federal government are commemorating National Whistleblower Protection Day. This day, rooted in the foundation of American history, serves to memorialize our forefathers who unanimously passed America's first Whistleblower Protection Law in 1778. That action still stands today as a testament to the importance of whistleblowing and holding our government honest, efficient and accountable.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) relies on whistleblowers to report waste, fraud, and abuse in DHS programs and operations. DHS OIG's Whistleblower Protection Unit, responsible for handling all allegations of whistleblower retaliation filed with the OIG, received over 150 complaints of retaliation last fiscal year. OIG also has a Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman (WPO), responsible for educating and advising all DHS employees about whistleblower protection rights and remedies.

“Courageous individuals who choose to ‘blow the whistle’ are essential to making sure our government holds true to the mission of protecting funds on behalf of the American taxpayer,” said Acting Inspector General John Kelly. “DHS personnel at the highest levels of leadership value the unique contributions of whistleblowers.”

Individuals who are aware of fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement of DHS resources are encouraged to contact OIG via [OIG's Hotline](#) or by calling (800) 323-8603. Whistleblowers can choose to remain anonymous when reporting to the OIG and the OIG Whistleblower Protection Coordinator is always available to provide general information to DHS employees and contractors on whistleblower rights and protections.