To amend title 5, United States Code, to protect those who defend the United States by exercising their duty as patriots to warn against the existence of threats to weaknesses created by institutional failures that should be identified and corrected in a timely manner, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Paul Revere Freedom to Warn Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) terrorist attacks are a fundamental threat to America’s freedom;

(2) the Nation’s capacity to be vigilant requires Congress and law enforcement agencies to be aware of vulnerability to terrorism from the existence of threats to weaknesses created by institutional failures that should be identified and corrected in a timely manner;

(3) the President has called on all Americans, as their patriotic duty, to bear witness against ongoing threats to our way of life;

(4) whistleblowers have risked retaliation and been harassed for making significant contributions to prevent avoidable tragedies by exercising First Amendment rights to warn against threats to America’s public safety infrastructure for national defense, civil defense, law enforcement, transportation, communications, energy, and food;

(5) whistleblowers often face severe harassment and retaliation for exercising their duty to warn, and
such retaliation for responsibly exercising freedom of 
speech itself is a threat to America’s way of life;

(6) since 1912 Federal law has banned retaliat-
tion for communicating with Congress because the 
free flow of information is a prerequisite for effective 
exercise of constitutional checks and balances, and 
the prohibition has been extended to protect wit-
tnesses testifying to law enforcement agencies;

(7) there are no remedies to enforce these 
rights for victims of their violation; and

(8) Paul Revere, who risked his life to warn 
that America’s communities were being invaded, was 
America’s first whistleblower and personifies the way 
in which whistleblowers can make a difference in our 
Nation’s survival.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to protect people in either 
the public or private sector who defend the United States 
by exercising their duty as patriots to warn against the 
existence of threats to weaknesses created by institutional 
failures that should be identified and corrected in a timely 
manner.
SEC. 4. REMEDIES FOR RETALIATION AGAINST WHISTLE-BLOWERS.

Section 7211 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ``(a)'' before ``The right''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

``(b)(1) Any person aggrieved by a violation of subsection (a) of this section or subsections (b) or (c) of section 1512 if title 18 may bring a civil action (and is entitled to a jury trial) in the appropriate United States District Court within three years from the date of such violation, against any person, organization, or employer responsible for the violation, for lost wages and benefits, reinstatement, costs and attorney fees, compensatory or punitive damages, and equitable, injunctive, or any other relief that the court considers appropriate.

(2) A District Court shall retain jurisdiction over any claim filed under this subsection unless all parties voluntarily elect after the complaint is filed that the proceeding be resolved through mediation and, if necessary, that a decision by an arbitrator selected by mutual consent, with approval by the District Court, be binding. The District Court shall retain jurisdiction as necessary to comply with an arbitrator’s decision.
“(c) The same legal burdens of proof in proceedings under subsection (b) shall apply as under sections 1214 and 1221 of this title.”.