

Time and again, I have come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to point out specific examples of retaliation. That is why I have called on every President since Ronald Reagan to hold a Rose Garden Ceremony to honor whistleblowers. I hope President Trump will be the first to set this historic precedent.

Unfortunately, there has been a growing trend among Federal Agencies to unlawfully silence whistleblowers by failing to include the anti-gag provision in their nondisclosure policies, forms, and similar agreements. The law requires Federal Agencies to include the anti-gag provision to notify employees of their whistleblower rights.

That is why last Congress, I called on 76 inspectors general to conduct a review of their parent Agency's nondisclosure agreements and similar documents to ensure the anti-gag provision was included. In response, so far, 36 IGs have completed reviews.

Thirty IGs found that their parent Agency's nondisclosure agreements were noncompliant with the law. Twenty-six IGs said their parent Agency updated or was in the process of updating these deficient agreements. The IG community has much work to do, and this Senator won't stop protecting whistleblowers.

Whistleblower disclosures proved that anti-Trump FBI agent Tim Thibault was involved in the genesis of Jack Smith's election interference case against President Trump. The FBI codenamed it Arctic Frost. Internal FBI records revealed Thibault acted outside of established FBI protocol and essentially opened and approved his own investigation into President Trump. This is just one of many instances of political infection at the Justice Department and FBI.

Whistleblowers also provided me with new information that, during the Biden administration, FBI leadership politicized investigations at the expense of saving victimized children. According to whistleblowers, agents working large caseloads on the Violent Crimes Against Children Unit were reassigned by FBI leadership to work January 6 cases.

Political infection isn't just a DOJ and FBI problem. Whistleblower disclosures provided to my office showed that the Obama-Biden administration's then-Secretary of State John Kerry obstructed arrests of indicted Iranian terrorists. Kerry did so to score political points with Iran for the failed nuclear deal.

My consistent efforts to let in sunshine continues across our government whether it is exposing flaws in the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement that caused children to be placed in harm's way, pressing the FBI on issuing a memo about targeting Catholics, or fighting to obtain information from DOJ on the horrific January 1, 2025, attacks in New Orleans. We need more whistleblowers to shine light on political infection be-

cause we certainly can't count on the government to turn themselves in.

Now, the Federal Government isn't the only bad actor that whistleblowers provided sunlight on. The Simon Wiesenthal Center also disclosed to my office that Credit Suisse engaged in misconduct during its internal investigation. That investigation focused on the bank's Nazi-linked financial accounts. Turns out, Credit Suisse serviced more Nazi wealth than was known during and after World War II and tried to keep it hidden. Thanks to these whistleblowers, I discovered that Credit Suisse lied to Congress about all this, while smearing the reputation of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

My oversight list could go on and on thanks to whistleblowers.

In conclusion, we all ought to be thankful for Sunshine Week, which is an opportunity for the country to highlight the righteous fight for transparency. Shining a consistent light on the work of our government is essential to making it accountable to "We the People."

#### JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the rules of procedure for the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library for the 119th Congress be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

##### 119TH CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

##### RULES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

###### *Rule 1.—Meetings of the Committee*

(a) Regular meetings may be called by the Chair, with the concurrence of the Vice Chair, as may be deemed necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(b) Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedures;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(i) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(ii) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulation. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.)

(c) Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all members at least three days in advance. In addition, the committee staff will email or telephone reminders of committee meetings to all members of the committee or to the appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

(d) A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of committee business will normally be sent to all members of the committee by the staff director at least one day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any member of the committee from raising appropriate non-agenda topics.

(e) Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least three business days before the date of their appearance, a written statement of their proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chair may direct, unless the Chair waived such a requirement for good cause.

###### *Rule 2.—Quorums*

(a) Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony; provided, however, once a quorum is established, any one member can continue to take such testimony.

(c) Under no circumstance may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

###### *Rule 3.—Voting*

(a) Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

(b) If a third of the members present so demand, a recorded vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

(c) The results of roll call votes taken in any meeting upon a measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and the votes cast in opposition to each measure and amendment by each member of the committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

*Rule 4.—Delegation and Authority to the Chair and Vice Chair*

(a) The Chair and Vice Chair are authorized to sign all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide on the committee's behalf on all routine business.

(b) The Chair is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

(c) The Chair is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADDIE BING

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Addie for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Addie is a native of Pinedale. She attends Casper College, where she is studying to obtain her associates of science in general studies and her private pilot license. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Addie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLOW LINDHOLM

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Willow for her hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Willow is a native of Sundance. She attends Sheridan College, where she is studying to obtain her associates of science in social science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Willow for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO EIRINI MARINAKI

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Eirini for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, whip office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Eirini is a native of Athens, Greece. She attends Georgetown University,

where she is studying to obtain her bachelor's in political science and economics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Eirini for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO KASSIDY THOMAS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kassidy for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kassidy is a native of Casper. She recently graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's in psychology and criminal justice. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kassidy for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING GRANT SMITH

• Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to make a statement to honor the extraordinary life and service of a great advocate: Mr. Grant Smith. Grant spent a lifetime working on issues to advance fair justice system.

Most recently, Grant worked with my team on the Re-Entry Support Through Opportunities for Resources and Essentials Act, known as the RE-STORE Act. In all of his work with my team, he showed great professionalism, dedication, and care.

Our movement for better drug policy is forever indebted to his service. Grant and his family are in my prayers.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE BRICK KITCHEN

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize The Brick Kitchen of Independence, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2021, husband and wife Nate and Shelly Whited founded The Brick

Kitchen in Independence, IA. Inspired by their love for cooking and spending time in the kitchen with their children Tia and Will, the couple envisioned a space where culinary enthusiasts could find high-quality kitchen tools and gadgets. Before opening, the couple purchased the historic King's Hall—the all-brick opera house originally built in 1876—and renamed part of it The Brick Kitchen. Through the help of friends and family and hard work, Nate and Shelly updated and refurbished the building, trying their best to keep its historic charm. In May 2021, The Brick Kitchen was officially open for business.

Today, The Brick Kitchen remains in its 20,000-square-foot building, offering a wide array of kitchen products and services, including cutlery, cookware, food preparation supplies, in-house knife sharpening, and more. The company also receives batches of flavor-infused olive oils and balsamic vinegar from a Montana-based small business, which the team securely bottles, labels, and sells in-store. Most recently, in April 2023, The Brick Kitchen expanded its operation by opening an instructional kitchen for demonstrations and hands-on cooking classes. With a team of 12 community employees, The Brick Kitchen is committed to quality, durability, and ease of use products, making the store a beloved retail destination for residents and visitors alike.

The Brick Kitchen is a member of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, and in 2021, the chamber awarded the Entrepreneurs of the Year as well as the Business of the Year to both Shelly and Nate. The Brick Kitchen is also a member of the HTI Buying Group, supporting local initiatives and industry partnerships. In addition, Shelly served on the Independence School Board for 7 years, including a term as president. Nate serves on the city board of adjustments and contributes his time to coaching varsity soccer. He also serves on the Independence Aquatic Center Improvement Board. The Brick Kitchen actively supports local schools, events, and organizations through funding and gifts. Additionally, in 2000, Nate was a founding member of the Independence Fourth of July board, helping grow the event from hundreds of people to 30,000 attendees each year. In 2023, Shelly and Nate made NCAA history by signing 18 members of the University of Iowa Mellophone section of the marching band to a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deal, making The Brick Kitchen the first to provide this type of deal to student musicians. This May, The Brick Kitchen will celebrate its fourth anniversary in Iowa.

The Brick Kitchen's active community involvement as well as their commitment to excellence are clear. I want to congratulate Shelly and Nate Whited, their children, and their team for providing high-quality kitchen products and services to families across