



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

DEC 04 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of Secretary Julián Castro, thank you for your letter about the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) compliance with the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (WPEA), specifically section 115(a). As you may know, agency heads are required to ensure, in consultation with the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC), that employees are informed of the rights and remedies available to them under the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA) and related laws. OSC has established a Certification Program to provide agencies and agency components with a process for meeting this statutory requirement, and agencies are required to take affirmative steps to complete OSC's Certification Program.

HUD, with assistance from its Office of the Chief Information Officer and Office of Inspector General (OIG), which administers HUD's Whistleblower Ombudsman Program, is actively moving towards compliance with OSC's certification program. HUD has already taken the following actions to safeguard the rights and protections of whistleblowers:

- A link to information on whistleblower protections for Federal employees is posted on the welcome page of HUD's publicly accessible website.
- HUD's OIG has established a Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman program to provide education about protections for current and former HUD employees who make protected disclosures, and it has posted information on its publicly accessible webpage regarding whistleblower rights and protections.
- In August 2013, an Office of General Counsel employment law seminar for HUD attorneys included a presentation by OSC on prohibited personnel practices.
- In September 2013, the Department provided a webcast training for employees and managers on Prohibited Personnel Practices and Whistleblower Protections by OSC. The archived webcast is available for viewing by all HUD employees.
- In October 2014, the Department's OIG conducted mandatory training for all employees on whistleblower rights and protections. The training remains available online for employees as an archived webcast.

Turning to Section 115(a) of the WPEA, HUD's OIG has posted the required language of Section 115(a) on its whistleblower protection webpage. It has also posted the required list of controlling Executive Orders and statutory provisions. This is accessible through the link on the welcome page of the Department's website. HUD is also taking steps to ensure that the language is included in non-disclosure policies, forms and agreements and address any existing non-complying non-disclosure agreements.

Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Erika L. Moritsugu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erika L. Moritsugu
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations