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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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October 31, 2017

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Rules and
Administration
304 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Rules and
Administration
302 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

In 1995, Congress passed the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), which I introduced. This act required Congress and its associated agencies to follow the same civil rights, labor, workplace safety, and health laws that applied to other government agencies. Although the CAA did not mandate that Congressional offices provide sexual harassment training to all new employees, my understanding is that many offices require their staff to participate in sexual harassment training provided by the Office of Compliance for the United States Congress (OOC). But as this training is not mandatory, some may not be receiving it.

I am convinced that sexual harassment training is vitally important to maintaining a respectful and productive working environment in Congress. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Committee on Rules and Administration consider the immediate implementation of a policy requiring all new Senate employees—including permanent and temporary Senate staff, interns, fellows, and detailees—to undergo online or in-person sexual harassment training provided by the OOC, as well as all current employees who have not yet received it.

Last year, on July 14, 2016, the Committee on Rules and Administration distributed a letter requiring all Senate employees to complete Cybersecurity Awareness Training in an effort to protect the Senate's hardware, network, and data. I believe a similar letter could announce a new policy about mandatory sexual harassment training.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,


CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator