

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 26, 2015

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS
RANKING MEMBER

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
RANKING MEMBER

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Mabus,

As you know, whistleblowers play a critical role in protecting tax dollars by shining a light on waste, fraud and abuse within the federal government. That is why I was disturbed to read in *The Washington Post* that, despite a recommendation from the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG), Rear Admiral Brian Losey is not being held accountable for actions he took against two employees¹.

According to the article, Rear Admiral Losey is the unnamed Navy officer noted in a DoD IG report published earlier this year. The report states that a "Navy rear admiral reprimed against two civilian appropriated fund employees by administering lowered performance evaluations to the employees, and detailing one of the employees" and recommended that "the Secretary of the Navy take appropriate action against the rear admiral for repriming against the two employees."² The article also notes that Navy officials reviewed the DoD IG's findings but determined that Rear Admiral Losey acted within his authorities as a commander.

As a United States senator, I have worked hard to strengthen protections for whistleblowers because I understand how important they are to ensuring accountability for the use of public funds. Failure to hold individuals accountable for taking actions against whistleblowers discourages others from coming forward, which is unacceptable.

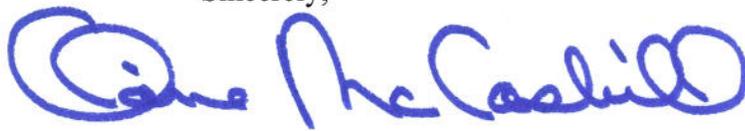
¹ Craig Whitlock, "Powerful Admiral Punishes Suspected Whistleblowers, Still Gets Promotion," *The Washington Post*, October 21, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/powerful-admiral-punishes-suspected-whistleblowers-still-gets-promotion/2015/10/21/8a9e757e-7342-11e5-8248-98e0f5a2e830_story.html

² DOD IG, "Semiannual Report to Congress, October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015," p. 41, http://www.dodig.mil/pubs/sar/SAR_Mar_2015_Book.pdf

In response to these allegations, I ask that the Navy provide my staff with a full briefing on the findings of any DoD IG investigation into allegations of reprisal against Rear Admiral Losey and any disciplinary action taken in response to those findings. If you or your staff have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jason Rauch in my office at 202-224-6154 or jason_rauch@mccaskill.senate.gov.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent and the last name "McCaskill" following in a similar style.

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator