



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
Department of Homeland Security

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DHS OIG Commemorates National Whistleblower Appreciation Day**

Today, agencies across the federal government will commemorate National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. This day memorializes those individuals, from as early as the American Revolutionary War, who have had the courage to speak up and hold our government accountable to its fundamental values.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) relies on whistleblowers to report waste, fraud, and abuse in DHS programs and operations. This effort is led in part by OIG's Whistleblower Protection Coordinator who is responsible for educating and advising all DHS employees about whistleblower protection rights and remedies. Additionally, DHS OIG's Whistleblower Protection Unit, responsible for handling all allegations of whistleblower retaliation filed with the OIG, has reviewed 184 retaliation complaints during the first half of fiscal year 2019.

"Today, we recognize the vital contributions of the whistleblowers who have and will continue to shape our democracy by 'blowing the whistle'", said Deputy Inspector General Jennifer Costello.

Individuals who are aware of fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement of DHS resources are encouraged to contact OIG via [OIG's Hotline](#) or by calling (800) 323-8603. Whistleblowers can choose to remain anonymous when reporting to the OIG and the OIG Whistleblower Protection Coordinator is always available to provide general information to DHS employees and contractors on whistleblower rights and protections.

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