

NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

March 12, 2007

Dear Representative:

The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) has a long-standing concern about whistleblower protections for federal employees. We have been concerned that the laws protecting whistleblowers are inadequate and that recent court decisions have even further eroded employee protections.

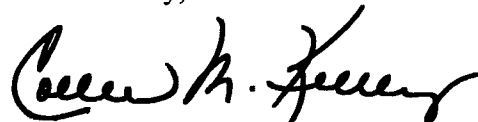
NTEU strongly supports **HR 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act**, a bipartisan bill approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and urges you to vote **“YES”** when this legislation comes to the floor of the House. We believe this bill represents strong, comprehensive legislation that will provide and restore needed protections. HR 985 would strengthen federal employee protections in three major areas:

- It will create procedures for federal employee whistleblowers to have their cases heard in federal court and allows all circuits of the appellate courts to review whistleblower cases;
- It will close the loopholes which have prevented National Security Whistleblowers from obtaining protections; and
- It will legislatively overturn the Supreme Court’s *Garcetti v. Ceballos* decision, which prevented government whistleblowers from obtaining First Amendment protection when they reported concerns “internally” through their chain of command.

All of these provisions are needed and essential improvements in the law to protect federal employees who are serving the public interest by their actions.

Thank you for your consideration of NTEU’s views. If you have any questions, please contact Kurt Vorndran or Jean Hutter in the Legislation Department at 202.572.5500.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Kelley
National President

cc: Kurt Vorndran
Jean Hutter