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Bill Pascrell, Jr.

*Member of Congress
8th District, New Jersey*

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

March 27, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you today on behalf of a constituent of mine, Mr. Kevin Downing of Fort Lee, NJ. Mr. Downing was previously terminated from his position in the New York City office of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1999. There is evidence to indicate that Mr. Downing's termination was inappropriate because it was in retaliation for his communication with Congressional staff regarding what he believed to be waste and abuse present in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Federal employees should not live in fear that they will be terminated for seeking a more effective and efficient federal government.

Congress agrees, and last year passed the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA), restoring credible whistleblower rights for federal employees. By providing these protections, Congress sought to restore the public's faith in an efficient and accountable government. Had such legislation been in place when Mr. Downing was terminated, there is strong reason to believe it would have been found to have been inappropriate.

Mr. Downing has advised my office that, in the wake of the passage of the WPEA, he intends to seek to continue his public service career and apply for positions with the federal government. Having been a victim of retaliation in the past due to his whistleblower status, I would encourage to you to consider his application in light of the new protections Congress recently established for federal whistleblowers, and urge you to give it every appropriate consideration.

Please contact Arthur Mandel on my staff at (202) 225-5751 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress