



WARN Act Remarks as Prepared
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Whistleblowers (and the Rest of us) Need the WARN Act

Thank you Ranking Member Cummings and Senator Baldwin for putting together this important bill. And thank you to the Government Accountability Project for your tireless work advocating on behalf of whistleblowers. My name is Alexis Goldstein and I am a Senior Policy Analyst at Americans for Financial Reform, a nonpartisan coalition of over 200 organizations working for a safe and ethical financial system. Ensuring that insiders can blow the whistle on illegal acts is crucially important to a financial system that works.

The 2010 Dodd-Frank Act gave regulators important new tools to work with financial whistleblowers— and these programs are showing initial signs of success. But problems remain. Big banks and other large companies are still working hard to keep employees from blowing the whistle – firms use everything from confidentiality agreements that force whistleblowers to waive their rights, to requirements that employees disclose any of their communications with government regulators to their employer. The WARN Act works for stop these kinds of tactics that are meant to gag would-be whistleblowers.

Robust whistleblower programs are crucial to overcome the fear and intimidation that stifle whistleblowers from coming forward. I spent seven years on Wall Street, and I can attest to the fact that financial firms are not interested in informing their workers of their whistleblower rights. The WARN Act solves this problem by requiring that banks educate their employees about their whistleblower rights and remedies.

Finally, it is incredibly difficult for would-be whistleblowers to overcome the culture of secrecy that permeates large financial firms, in large part because of the fear of retaliation. That's why Americans for Financial Reform welcomes the provisions in the WARN Act that expand the activities that constitute protected whistleblowing, and by closing loopholes in the existing anti-retaliation rules. We thank the Ranking Member and the Senator for their work drafting this bill, and we are very glad to have the chance to support it. Thank you.