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Special Counsel Commends MSPB Study on Whistleblowing

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Federal employees reporting waste, fraud and abuse routinely face retaliation and must be protected from it in order for the government to function at its best. Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner commends the new report from the Merit System Protection Board which highlights this reality: *Blowing the Whistle: Barriers to Federal Employees Making Disclosures*.

According to the report, approximately one-third of the individuals who believed they had been identified as a source of a report of wrongdoing perceived either threats or acts of reprisal, or both. In addition, the report found an increase in the percentage of employees aware of waste caused by a badly managed program and a significant increase in the number of employees who observed acts of wrongdoing that would cost more than \$100,000. Lerner said, "With the government facing a fiscal crisis, OSC's role to protect whistleblowers has never been more important."

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.