



SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY



Introduced Bill to Expand Whistleblower Protections to Non-Federal Employees. In January 2011, Sen. McCaskill introduced the Non-Federal Employee Whistleblower Protection Act of 2011 (S. 241), legislation which would provide federal contractor employees with whistleblower protections. This marked the second time in two years that McCaskill had sought to secure whistleblower protections for federal contractor employees, an important step towards ensuring that federal contractors use taxpayer dollars wisely. McCaskill's legislation would bring increased accountability and transparency to federal contracting.

Probe Led to Resignation of Senior Administration Official. In July 2011, a top official at the U.S. Department of Labor was forced to resign after an Inspector General investigation, requested by Sen. McCaskill, found that the official had circumvented rules and regulations to secure government contracts for friends and colleagues. McCaskill requested the investigation after being approached by a whistleblower who shared allegations of contracting fraud committed by senior officials within the Department. The report, which was released publicly in July 2011, described a "pattern of conduct" by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS), Raymond Jefferson, "which reflects a consistent disregard of federal procurement regulations, federal ethics principles, and the proper stewardship of appropriated dollars."

Exposed Attempt to Circumvent Earmark Ban in the House. In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill released an explosive report finding that members of the U.S. House of Representatives had attempted to circumvent their own self-imposed ban on earmarks, and that hundreds of earmarks were secretly attached by secretly attaching hundreds of earmarks to the House's National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 (NDAA) by the House Armed Services Committee. McCaskill's report uncovered an elaborate scheme put in place by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon that was designed explicitly to allow his committee's members to earmark in violation of the ban on earmarks in Congress. Succumbing to pressure from McCaskill, McKeon announced that he would strip \$700 million in earmarks from his House bill, a clear admission that he and his colleagues had attempted to circumvent the earmark ban.

Led Successful Effort to Open Defense Authorization Markup to the Public. Before Sen. McCaskill arrived in Washington, the Senate Armed Services Committee's markup of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was conducted behind closed doors. Every time she has participated in an NDAA markup, McCaskill has offered a motion to open the meeting up to the public and every time her motions have been rejected by the Committee. In 2011, her first year

as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, McCaskill opened the Subcommittee's markup of the NDAA to the public.

Introduced Legislation to End Automatic Congressional Pay Raises. On January 25, 2011, Sen. McCaskill introduced S. 133, a bill that would permanently end automatic pay raises for Members of Congress. Currently, Members of Congress receive an annual increase in their salary automatically, meaning it takes legislative action to prevent members from getting a pay raise. McCaskill's legislation would stop these automatic pay raises and instead, require Congress to vote proactively to increase their pay. Because of the support of Sen. McCaskill to stop the congressional automatic pay raise, Members of Congress have not received a pay raise since 2010.

Investigated Contract Mismanagement at Arlington National Cemetery. In July 2010, Sen. McCaskill held a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight on contract mismanagement at Arlington National Cemetery which contributed to misplaced headstones and bodies of fallen soldiers buried in incorrect plots, as well as millions of dollars of waste and potential fraud. McCaskill's investigation led her to introduce S. 3860, legislation to hold the Secretary of the Army accountable to Congress on the Cemetery's ability to identify and fix any errors in the burial records for gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery. McCaskill's bill passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law in December 2010.

Led Effort to End Secret Holds in the Senate. In 2010, Sen. McCaskill led the effort to end the practice of secret holds in the Senate. McCaskill spoke out against the practice numerous times on the floor of the Senate and later joined with Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) to pass a Senate resolution (S. Res. 11) that required any member objecting to the consideration of legislation or a nominee be disclosed in the Congressional Record after one legislative day.

Created the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight. In early 2009, Sen. McCaskill helped to create the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, a first-of-its-kind committee intended specifically to target waste, fraud and abuse in government contracting. As Chairman of the new Subcommittee, McCaskill has led investigations into actual and potential contracting fraud in nearly every federal agency, identifying hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in savings in the process.

Strengthened Oversight of the TARP Program. In 2009, Sen. McCaskill worked to strengthen oversight of the \$700 billion Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) by introducing the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program Act. McCaskill's bill, which was signed into law in April 2009, increased the power and authority of the Special Inspector General for TARP by giving him the ability to oversee all actions taken under the plan and provide him with additional and much needed tools to strengthen the oversight of these funds.

Established a Government Contractor Misconduct Database. In 2008, Sen. McCaskill introduced the Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act, legislation to establish a Government Contractor Misconduct Database. Language from McCaskill's bill was passed into law as part of the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

Expanded Protections for Defense Contract Whistleblowers. In 2008, Sen. McCaskill authored language that required Department of Defense contractors to inform their employees in writing of their statutory employee whistleblower rights and protections. McCaskill's language was passed into law as part of the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. McCaskill has also won improved protections for Department of Defense whistleblowers on multiple occasions and the improved laws applicable to the Department's employees became a model for whistleblower protections for employees in other parts of government.

Established the Commission on Wartime Contracting. In 2007, Sen. McCaskill joined Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) to introduce a bill to establish an independent, bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting to review government contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill was inspired by the work of the "Truman Committee," a special Congressional committee initially led by Sen. Harry Truman (D-MO) that investigated government waste during and after World War II.

Strengthened the Nation's System of Inspectors General. In 2007, McCaskill joined with Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) to introduce the Inspector General Reform Act of 2007 (S. 2324), legislation to improve efficiency and accountability within the federal government by strengthening the nation's system of inspectors general. McCaskill's bill guaranteed that qualified individuals were appointed as IGs, protected IGs from pressure or influence from the government agencies they investigate, and ensured that all IG reports and audits are easily accessible to the public. McCaskill's bill was signed into law in April 2008.

Forced Resignation of Failed Walter Reed Medical Center Chief. In 2007, during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on bureaucratic failures at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Sen. McCaskill grilled the top Army Medical Commander, Lt. General Kevin Kiley, in a face-to-face exchange over his unwillingness to accept responsibility for a lengthy trail of unaddressed problems within his command. McCaskill subsequently called for Kiley's resignation, which he proffered shortly thereafter.

Introduced Legislation to Eliminate Duplicative and Overlapping Programs. In June 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Rand Paul (R-KY) and Mark Udall (D-CO) to introduce an amendment intended to prevent the creation of duplicative and overlapping government programs. Specifically, McCaskill's amendment would require that a report be included with every bill considered by the full Senate to determine if the bill creates any new federal

program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing federal program, office, or initiative with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities.

Led Investigation into the General Services Administration; GSA Administrator Subsequently Resigned and Two Senior Officials Were Fired. In 2010, Sen. McCaskill began an investigation of contracting practices at GSA. In March 2011, the Subcommittee held a hearing to examine GSA's decision to award pricey, no-bid contracts to a media consultant to respond to inquiries about health and environmental concerns at GSA property in Kansas City. According to the GSA Inspector General, GSA failed to follow contract rules and procedures and paid far more than it should have for the services. In April 2012, one of the officials who had testified before the Subcommittee was fired and the Administrator resigned following a separate IG report which found GSA had held an extravagant conference in Las Vegas, where they once again failed to follow proper contract rules and overpaid for services.

Introduced Legislation to Establish an Independent Inspector General to Review Senate Office Spending. In March 2011, Sen. McCaskill introduced S. 428, a bill that would establish an Inspector General for the United States Senate. Unlike the House of Representatives, the Senate does not have an independent entity to audit and investigate potential fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and/or violations of rules and laws related to Senate programs and operations. Sen. McCaskill's legislation would establish an Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Senate that conducts audits, investigations, evaluations, and other reviews of programs and operations. The OIG would also be able to make policy recommendations to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Senate.

Championed Legislation to Ensure Money Senators Return from Their Budgets Is Used to Reduce the Deficit and Returned More Than 10% of Her Senate Budget Every Year in Office. In February 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senator Isakson (R-AL) to introduce legislation that would require any remaining balances in a Senator's administrative office account be returned to the Treasury for the purpose of reducing the federal deficit. S. 81 would require that at the end of each fiscal year, if a Senator has not spent all the funds they are allotted to administer their offices, then those funds will return to the federal Treasury for the purpose of reducing the federal deficit. Since coming to the Senate in 2007, Senator McCaskill has returned at least 10% of the funds she is provided to administer her federal offices every year.

Supported Landmark Ethics Legislation to Improve Ethics in Washington One of the first acts Sen. McCaskill took as a United States Senator was to help shepherd landmark ethics legislation through the Senate. S. 1, the Open Government and Honest Leadership Act, strengthened public disclosure requirements on federal lobbyists and their funding by requiring lobbyist disclosures to be electronically filed on a quarterly basis. It also placed more restrictions on gifts for Members of

Congress and their staff and, for the first time ever, it imposed mandatory disclosure of earmarks.

Championed Legislation to Prevent Members of Congress and Staff From Partaking in Unlawful Insider Trading. In 2012, Sen. McCaskill joined with Sens. Lieberman (D-CT), Collins (R-ME), Gillibrand (D-NY) and Brown (R-MA) to pass S. 2038, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (STOCK Act). The STOCK Act prohibits members and employees of Congress, as well as employees of the Executive and Judicial branches, from using any nonpublic information derived from their position in the federal government for personal benefit. It also requires every Member of Congress to publicly file and electronically disclose any financial transaction of stocks, bonds, and other securities within 45 days. The STOCK Act was signed into law on April 4, 2012.

Demanded That an Effort to Earmark New Executive Jets for the Air Force to Use to Ferry Members of Congress and Other Senior Officials Be Blocked. In September 2009, after learning that Members of the House of Representatives sought to provide funds for the Air Force to buy new executive jets that would ferry Members of Congress and senior government officials, Sen. McCaskill demanded the funding be dropped and promised to remove the funding if it was sent to the Senate. Subsequently, the House dropped the attempt to fund the jets.

Fought for Legislation to Improve the Government Accountability Office's Ability to Investigate Federal Agencies. In 2010 and 2011, Sen. McCaskill was successful in passing out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs legislation (S. 2991 and S. 237, respectively) to improve the Government Accountability Office's ability to access federal agency records needed to facilitate investigations into government performance. GAO is a legislative branch agency that aids Congress by evaluating federal programs for fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement.

Fought to Change Leadership and Culture at the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). Since 2008, Sen. McCaskill has sought management and systemic reforms at DCAA. After several whistleblowers and a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report raised concerns about falsified audits, insufficient audits and overall management concerns, Sen. McCaskill, through committee hearings and letters with her colleagues, Sens. Lieberman, Collins and Coburn, has pushed hard for changes at DCAA. In November 2009, the director of DCAA, April Stevenson, was removed and replaced. Sen. McCaskill remains active in seeking additional reforms at DCAA.