

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

We believe the American people have a right to know how their government works. The Trump administration has strapped a muzzle on federal agencies and attacked legitimate whistleblowers. Should you wish to break that silence, we want this to be a resource for the safe and responsible disclosure of information.

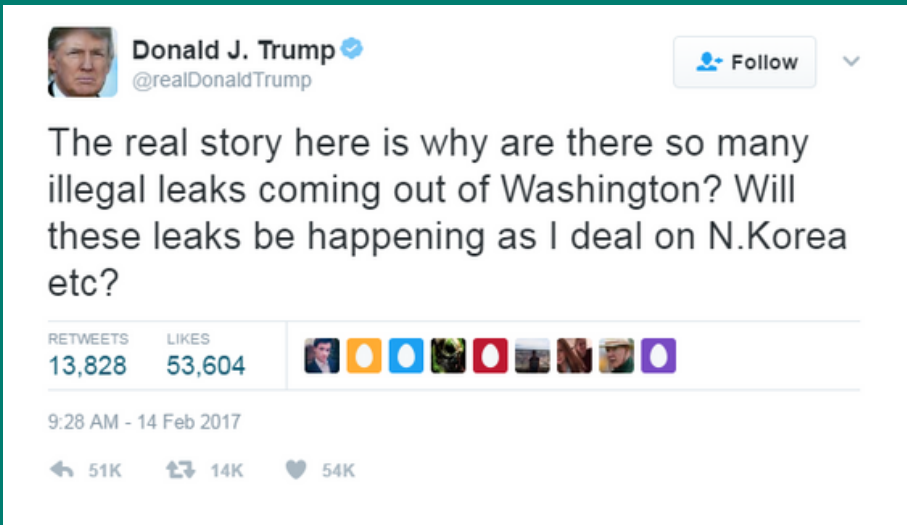
CONGRESSMAN TED LIEU

CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER

Know your rights.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT provides qualified protection of federal employees' rights to speak as private citizens on matters of public concern. Be aware that this right is balanced against the government's interest as your employer. If the government is able to prove that your speech disrupts the workings of government or the Agency's ability to function, you may find yourself on the losing side of a First Amendment retaliation suit. While cases will be decided individually on their own merits, you may be more likely to win if you speak outside the course of your employment--i.e., as a private citizen on your own time.

THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT protects you from workplace retaliation for disclosing: (1) a violation of a law, rule, or regulation; (2) gross mismanagement; (3) gross waste of funds; (4) an abuse of authority; or (5) a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. Classified materials are not covered under WEPA, nor is information irrelevant to the above categories of malfeasance.



Know your options.



Encrypted message to the press

Chat apps that employ end-to-end encryption are a safe bet, like WhatsApp, Signal, or Telegram.



Snail mail to the press

Mail without a return address is a low tech--but secure--way to communicate. To intercept mail in transit, authorities would require a warrant under Fourth Amendment protections.



Agency Inspector General

Each federal agency houses an independent Inspector General that stands ready to receive information about fraud, waste, and abuse. Visit <http://bit.ly/2kJ4I5p> for more information about each Agency's IG.

For more on federal employee protections, visit <http://bit.ly/2lMsL2j>