



OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

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YOUR RIGHTS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE

PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

Official Notification—Pursuant to sec. 1381(h)(1) & (2) of the
Congressional Accountability Act



CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEE: BEFORE YOU RECYCLE ME...



What do Senator Patty Murray, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Charles Grassley, Speaker John Boehner, and 488 other current and former law makers have in common?



They all voted for the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), passed by an almost unanimous vote by both the House (390-0) and Senate (98-1). The CAA provides you with workplace rights as a Legislative Branch employee.



What is the Congressional Office of Compliance?



We are an independent, non-partisan Legislative Branch office that administers rights granted to Legislative Branch employees under the CAA. Our staff consists of experienced counselors who can confidentially explain to you your rights in the workplace and mediators who can work with you and your employing office to reach amicable solutions to disputes under the CAA. We have safety and health inspectors who ensure Congressional workplaces are

safe and accessible to employees and constituents. Our office also provides training and other educational programs to Congressional offices and agencies.



What doesn't the Office of Compliance do?



Although we are a resource for employees on their rights under the CAA, we do not represent employees in their disputes with employers. We are here to provide a neutral and confidential forum for you to resolve issues in the workplace.



If I have a question about a workplace issue, where do I go?



You must contact the Office of Compliance (OOC) within 180 days of an alleged violation. If you have questions about a claim, contact our office at 202-724-9250 to speak confidentially with one of our counselors. You may also request an inspection for an alleged workplace safety violation or for an alleged barrier to accessibility for an individual with a disability.



YOUR RIGHTS IN THE CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE



As a Legislative Branch employee, you are protected by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA). The CAA applies to Congress and its covered community many of the workplace rights, safety, health, and public access laws that are available to private sector and Executive Branch employees. You may also be entitled to redress for violations of the CAA, including monetary awards, attorney's fees, costs, reinstatement, promotion, or backpay. To assert your rights under the CAA, you must file with the Office of Compliance (OOC) a Request for Counseling within 180 days of an alleged violation. Please visit www.compliance.gov for further information about the rights and protections provided to Congressional employees, or contact the OOC at (202) 724-9250 and ask to speak to a counselor. All counseling is strictly confidential.

NO HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION

Section 201 of the CAA

Prohibits harassment and discrimination in personnel actions based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Section 202 of the CAA

Provides rights and protections for employees taking or requesting leave for certain family and medical reasons.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS

Section 203 of the CAA

Requires the payment of minimum wage and overtime compensation to nonexempt employees, restricts child labor, and prohibits sex discrimination in wages.

POLYGRAPH TESTING PROTECTIONS

Section 204 of the CAA

Except in certain circumstances, prohibits requiring or requesting that lie detector tests be taken; using, accepting, or inquiring about the results of a lie detector test; or firing or discriminating against an employee based on the results of a lie detector test or for refusing to take a test.

NOTIFICATION OF OFFICE CLOSING OR MASS LAYOFFS

Section 205 of the CAA

Under certain circumstances, requires that employees be notified of an office closing or of a mass layoff at least sixty days in advance of the event.

UNIFORMED SERVICES RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Section 206 of the CAA

Protects employees who are performing service in the uniformed services from discrimination and provides certain benefits and reemployment rights.

REPRISAL OR INTIMIDATION PROHIBITED FOR EXERCISING WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Section 207 of the CAA

Prohibits employing offices from intimidating, retaliating, or discriminating against employees who exercise their rights as applied by the CAA.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Section 210 of the CAA

Protects members of the public who are qualified individuals with disabilities from being denied access to public services, programs, activities, or places of public accommodation in the Legislative Branch.

HAZARD-FREE WORKSPACES

Section 215 of the CAA

Requires that all workplaces be free of recognized hazards that might cause death or serious injury.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND UNIONIZATION

Section 220 of the CAA

Protects the rights of certain Legislative Branch employees to form, join, or assist a labor organization, or to refrain from such activity, and to bring unfair practice charges.

GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION & PRIVACY

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

Prohibits the use of an employee's genetic information as a basis for discrimination in personnel actions.

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act

Gives certain veterans enhanced access to job opportunities and establishes a redress system for preference eligible veterans in the event that their veterans' preference rights are violated.

