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## UCOWF Statement on Congressional Action to Protect State & Local Fraud Fighters

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Following today's introduction of legislation closing the state and local loophole in federal whistleblower protection by House Energy & Commerce Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY), the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) released the following statement:

““Imagine two individuals doing the same day-to-day work in the same federal safety net program, but one does it as a federal employee in Washington, DC while the other does it as a state or local employee,” explained Keith Miskie, President of UCOWF. “The one in Washington, DC as a federal employee enjoys full federal whistleblower protections versus the state or local employee that identifies wrongdoing does NOT, putting themselves and their families at personal risk.”

“Sadly, this is the reality in our nation. This ‘second-class citizen’ approach to state and local fraud fighters represents a serious gap in our nation’s efforts to curb fraud, waste, and abuse. America’s fraud investigators are the frontline defenders of beneficiaries and taxpayers, and as the ‘boots on the ground’ ensuring our nation’s safety net is preserved for future generations, they desperately need this legislation.”

“So, on behalf of the United Council of Welfare Fraud – the nation’s only professional organization solely dedicated to the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and recovery of fraud in public assistance programs – we applaud the introduction of this legislation, and look forward to working with Chairman Guthrie, and his colleagues in the House, Senate and Administration to make this a reality and create an even playing field for America’s fraud fighters.”

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