



Support a Bill to Close Loopholes in Washington State's Whistleblower Law

SB 5406: Kline, Fairley and Fraser
HB 1911: McDermott, Hunt, Dunshee, Williams, Appleton, Green,
Darneille, Hasegawa, Morrell, Wood and Ormsby

This bill does four things:

1. Expands reporting limitations as employees can only report 'improper governmental action' to the Auditor's Office (testifying in front of the legislature, filing a complaint with law enforcement or state ethics commission or licensing board is not currently covered for protection against retaliation).
2. Shields disclosures of abuse of authority and gross mismanagement from retaliation by expanding the definition of 'improper government action'.
3. Protects the communication of scientific opinion and prevents alteration of technical findings unless scientifically justified. (The bill reinstates First Amendment rights that were stripped from public employees this summer by the Supreme Court (5-4)).
4. Declares that public servants cannot be punished for failing to follow a clearly illegal order.

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