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National security whistleblowers.

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Abstract : To discharge its constitutional duties, Congress depends on information obtained from the executive branch. Domestic and national security information is provided through agency reports and direct communications from department heads, but lawmakers also receive information directly from employees within the agencies. They take the initiative in notifying Congress, its committees, and Members of Congress about alleged agency

illegalities, corruption, and waste within the agency. This type of information comes from a group known as whistleblowers. Through such techniques as gag orders and nondisclosure agreements, Presidents have attempted to block agency employees from coming directly to Congress. In response, Congress has enacted legislation in an effort to assure the uninterrupted flow of domestic and national security information to lawmakers and their staffs. Members of Congress have made it clear they do not want to depend solely on information provided by agency heads. Overall, the issue has been how to protect employees who are willing to alert Congress about agency wrongdoing.

Descriptors : *CONGRESS , *NATIONAL SECURITY , CIVILIAN PERSONNEL , LEGISLATION , LAW ENFORCEMENT , FEDERAL LAW , GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Subject Categories : Government and Political Science
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