

XXX DATE XXXX

Dear Senator/Congressman XXXNAMEXXX

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to urgently address a matter of utmost importance requiring immediate attention and corrective action. Commander Kimberly Young-McLear (Ph.D.), a dedicated and commendable member of the U.S. Coast Guard, has been enduring severe injustices for over nine years. Recent reporting by CNN has underscored the gravity of the injustices Commander Young-McLear has persistently raised, shedding light on information she has presented to the government and representatives over several years. It is deeply troubling to note that members of Committees, presently conducting inquiries in light of the reporting in which Cdr Young McLear participated, have expressed shock and dismay at the reports Commander Young-McLear presented to them years ago. Moreover, the exclusion of Commander Young-McLear from ongoing proceedings is distressing. The question arises: why is she being marginalized? Could it be because those supposedly advocating for accountability are fully cognizant that Commander Young-McLear had previously disclosed this information to them? Additionally, the conspicuous absence of Black individuals, save for Commander Young-McLear and Senator Butler, during the Senate hearing on December 12 raises significant concerns. I am reaching out to you today to pose these critical inquiries and to emphasize the imperative that justice be impartial and rooted in truth. As an elected representative, your influence holds the power to drive decisive and meaningful action.

### **Background to request**

Commander Young-McLear's case highlights the crucial need for accountability, integrity, and protection of whistleblowers within our government institutions. Her tireless efforts to expose gross and unlawful misconduct within the U.S. Coast Guard have resulted in significant policy improvements, increased compliance with anti-harassment and anti-discrimination laws, and a stronger reflection of our nation's values. However, the retaliation she has faced continues to inflict severe psychological harm and serves as a chilling deterrent to others who may consider speaking up against wrongdoing.

The United States government cannot tolerate such abuses and failures to hold individuals accountable. It is imperative that we restore faith in our government institutions by taking swift and decisive action. I implore you to use your position and influence to champion Commander Young-McLear's cause and ensure that justice is served. Specifically, I urge you to:

1. Advocate for formal acknowledgement of the wrongdoings Commander Young-McLear has courageously sacrificed to expose and a written apology for the abuse and retaliation she has endured.
2. Hold all responsible parties accountable for their actions, ensuring that no individual is above the law and that evidence of clear patterns of wrongdoing is addressed.

3. Support efforts to establish July 30th of every year as a Federal Day of Observance, National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions whistleblowers make toward safeguarding our democracy.
4. Convene with whistleblower advocates, including Commander Young-McLear, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by whistleblowers and work collaboratively to develop legislation that strengthens protections for whistleblowers and upholds the values of integrity and accountability.

By taking decisive action on these matters, you will not only ensure justice for Commander Young-McLear but also send a powerful message about our commitment to protecting whistleblowers, defending our democratic values, and promoting transparency in government.

I kindly request your assistance in addressing this urgent matter. I wish to remind you, when Cdr Young-McLear appeared before Congress in the 2019 “Righting the Ship” hearings she was promised that Representatives would do their job — because she did hers. As you can see from reporting, we need you to do that job. I am confident that with your leadership and dedication, we can rectify the injustices faced by Commander Young-McLear and work towards a stronger and more accountable government. We will be pleased to receive your contact, or, put you directly in contact with Kim and the associates working on Righting the Ship.

Further Information about Kim’s case and efforts:

- [January 16, 2023 Letter to President Biden: National Whistleblower Center, Protect Our Defenders, Modern Military Association of America, Whistleblowers of America, and Walk the Talk Foundation](#)
- [Right The Ship podcast: a full broadcast about Commander Young-McLear’s case and the Righting the Ship congressional hearings & whistleblowing in the United States as a function of democracy.](#)

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your positive response and continued commitment to upholding the principles that makes the United States whole.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Contact Information