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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

April 8, 2014

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
VICE CHAIRMAN, FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT  
INSURANCE, HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY  
OVERSIGHT  
AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
COMMITTEE

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear President Obama,

Because you claimed you were unaware that Internal Revenue Services employees were targeting political groups; because you claimed that you were not aware that the National Security Agency was collecting massive amounts of phone and email data; because you claimed you did not know that the Department of Justice was carrying out an operation that put guns in the hands of criminals; and because you did not know that it was a terrorist attack on our embassy in Benghazi, I wanted to be sure you were aware of the very serious allegations of racial, gender, and age discrimination and hostile working environment at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

On April 2, CFPB employee Angela Martin, an Army Veteran and licensed attorney, testified about her experience working for the agency and the retaliation she endured for asserting her Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) rights and for coming forward as a whistleblower at the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing. The stories she relayed were astonishing and cannot be ignored.

According to Ms. Martin's testimony, the managers at the CFPB pursue "actions that are sexist and racist" and women were seen "crying in their offices after suffering from abuse." In fact, she claimed some employees have been clinically diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder stemming from the hostile work environment. Ms. Martin also informed Members that one particular division of the agency was commonly referred to as "The Plantation," a derogatory reference, and that a non-white immigrant employee was referred to as "an F-ing foreigner." Members were told "this behavior continues to this day."

What I am even more concerned over, however, is not only the allegation that Ms. Martin was stripped of her duties and her subordinates upon filing an EEO complaint, but the role CFPB Director Richard Cordray played in it. Ms. Martin testified that on "August 7 at 8:54 in a two-minute conversation [Cordray] told me to tell my attorneys to 'back down' because he was trying to secure me a position in [the Office of] Enforcement."

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I am writing to demand that this government-sanctioned discrimination and retaliation stop and, given the seriousness of these charges, believe this requires your personal attention.

Given your Administration's negligence in its responsibilities monitoring the agencies of the Executive Branch, I request that you acknowledge personal receipt of this letter and provide this Congress with a plan of action to rectify these charges; up to and including possible removal of Director Cordray and replacing him with a professional who will not tolerate or cover up this kind of behavior.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. P. Duffy', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress