

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions
Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Building
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Corporate Crime Database and Annual Report

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

Taxpayers Against Fraud, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to combating fraud against the U.S. Government, is writing to urge the Department of Justice to create an annual report and online database to illuminate the size and scope of corporate fraud being waged against U.S. taxpayers.

DOJ's *Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-18* states that economic crime presents "very severe threats to the United States' economy" and that the "explosion of financial fraud over the past few years has threatened the Nation's financial stability."¹ You have noted that "far too many taxpayer dollars are lost to health care fraud each year" and that "every dollar lost to health care fraud is one dollar less that we have to pay for critical services needed by our Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries."²

On both points, we could not agree more.

In order to gauge the amount of money lost through corporate fraud and the progress being made in combating this serious problem, we believe it is important for DOJ to create a central cross-agency online repository of fraud data so that the scope of damages to U.S. taxpayers can be ascertained. In addition, we believe such a database would illuminate the level of resources being brought to bear to stop fraud and would help educate government officials and the public about the financial, criminal, and administrative penalties levied in response to financial crimes and fraud schemes perpetrated against America's taxpayers.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/jmd/legacy/2014/02/28/doj-fy-2014-2018-strategic-plan.pdf>

² <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2018/jeff-sessions-interview.html>

One model to look to in addressing these issues is the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which for almost 90 years has tracked street crime in the United States.³ Just as Uniform Crime Reports break down street crime statistics to assist in understanding problems, patterns and progress, an annual report on corporate crime and a searchable online database would help regulators, law enforcement personnel, U.S. Attorneys, judges, stockholders and government procurement officers to understand the nature of past corporate transgressions, the penalties that have resulted, and developing trends in the field of fraud investigation and enforcement.

This not a new idea, but we think it is a good one for the Trump Administration to embrace. In 2010, the "Corporate Crime Database Act" (H.R. 6545 in the 111th Congress) was introduced to require the DOJ to produce such a report and maintain such a database. Similar legislation has been introduced in every Congress since. We have supported these initiatives and can think of few low-cost actions that would do as much to shed light on the serious problem of corporate fraud while helping to deter future fraud against America's taxpayers.

We would be happy to discuss the database proposal with you, as well as broader subjects relating to the epidemic of corporate crime and fraud that is costing our nation billions of dollars a year. Fighting fraud on behalf of taxpayers is a project that has broad bipartisan and popular support, and we believe it should continue to be an important priority for DOJ and all federal agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Patten", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Patten
President and Chief Executive Officer
Taxpayers Against Fraud

³ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/>