



**DCUC**  
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

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**June 1, 2026**

The Honorable Andrea M. Gacki  
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network  
P.O. Box 39  
Vienna, VA 22183  
Secretary of the Board

*Delivered electronically via: <https://www.regulations.gov>*

RE: Whistleblower Incentives and Protections [FINCEN-2026-0067 and RIN 1506-AB57]

Dear Director Gacki:

The Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC),<sup>1</sup> appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN) proposed rule to establish a whistleblower program that offers incentives and protections to encourage individuals with information about potential violations of the of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), Trading With the Enemy Act of 1917 (TWEA), and Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (Kingpin Act) to voluntarily report this information (the "Whistleblower Program").<sup>2</sup>

DCUC is the nation's premier association representing credit unions serving military, veterans, and their families worldwide. Our member credit unions play a key role in protecting the financial system from illicit activity while serving communities that are frequently targeted by fraud, identity theft, scams, and other forms of financial exploitation. Credit unions serving military communities routinely encounter fraud, sanctions, and national security risks affecting servicemembers, veterans, and their families and understand firsthand the importance of safeguarding the financial system against criminal activities. DCUC, therefore, strongly supports efforts to identify and deter illicit financial activity that threatens the integrity of the financial system and broader national security. While we support the objectives of this proposed rule and the vital role whistleblowers play in identifying significant violations, we offer recommendations to ensure the final rule strengthens compliance efforts without undermining effective internal controls.

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<sup>1</sup> The Defense Credit Union Council represents more than 200 defense-affiliated credit unions and over 40 million members—including active-duty servicemembers, Guard and Reserve personnel, veterans, Department of Defense civilians, and military families.

<sup>2</sup> The proposed rule would implement section 6314 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (AML Act) and the Anti-Money Laundering Whistleblower Improvement Act (AML Whistleblower Improvement Act), which were enacted into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21 NDAA) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, respectively.

## **Encourage Internal Reporting**

DCUC appreciates the recognition of internal reporting mechanisms within the proposed rule's framework and believes the final rule should not inadvertently discourage employees from utilizing internal channels before seeking external remedies. Credit unions devote substantial resources to compliance programs, employee training, suspicious activity monitoring, and internal procedures. Almost every time, potential compliance concerns are identified and remediated through internal means before resulting in harm to consumers or the financial services industry. Therefore, DCUC supports aspects of the proposal that encourage internal reporting and the importance of maintaining incentives for employees to utilize internal compliance channels when possible.

For example, we support FinCEN's provisions that contain a 120-day waiting period before external reporting to preserve incentives for institutions to maintain strong compliance programs. We request that FinCEN continue to encourage internal reporting mechanisms and avoid creating incentives that bypass effective institutional compliance programs. These systems should be viewed as complementary to, not in competition with, the whistleblower program.

## **Protect Confidential Supervisory Information**

As heavily regulated financial institutions, credit unions regularly interact with state regulators and/or their primary federal regulator, the National Credit Union Administration, and maintain sensitive supervisory and examination material. DCUC requests clarification regarding the treatment of confidential supervisory information and examination-related materials within the whistleblower process. Specifically, the final rule should clarify that the disclosure of protected supervisory information is not authorized through the whistleblower submission, and the final rule should include safeguards to preserve the confidentiality of the examination process.

## **Develop Rigorous Standards for Determining "Original Information"**

FinCEN's whistleblower program is only successful if credible, original, and actionable information is submitted. We encourage FinCEN to maintain rigorous standards for determining "original information," require sufficient factual support before moving forward with claims, and establish procedures to discourage duplicative or bad-faith submissions. These safeguards will help ensure that FinCEN's resources focus on significant violations with credible sources while minimizing unnecessary burdens for regulated institutions, such as credit unions.

## **Recognize Credit Union Good Faith Efforts**

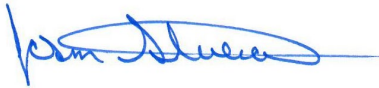
Credit unions are committed to maintaining effective BSA and anti-money laundering compliance programs. If issues are identified, credit unions take immediate corrective action, cooperate with regulators, and implement remediation measures. FinCEN should recognize prompt self-identification, corrective action, and cooperation with regulators when evaluating enforcement outcomes arising from whistleblower submissions. Credit unions that demonstrate good-faith efforts to address deficiencies should be appropriately considered within the broader enforcement framework. Small and mid-sized credit unions should also be considered within any

framework given their unique operational characteristics, and should not be subject to overly burdensome documentation, reporting, or procedural requirements.

DCUC appreciates FinCEN's commitment to protecting the financial system and combatting illegal finance. We support the goals of the proposed whistleblower program and believe the final rule can be strengthened by preserving effective internal compliance programs, protecting confidential supervisory information, discouraging frivolous claims, recognizing good faith compliance efforts, and acknowledging the unique qualities of credit unions.

DCUC looks forward to continued engagement with FinCEN on issues affecting credit unions and the military communities they serve. If you have questions about DCUC's comments, please contact me at [Jason.Stverak@dcuc.org](mailto:Jason.Stverak@dcuc.org).

Sincerely,



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DCUC