

**Washington, D.C.** - Representative Lee Terry (NE-02) today introduced the Public Trust and Accountability Act (PTA Act).

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Mr. Terry and his colleagues want to make sure government employees, including Members of Congress and the Administration, pay a stiff penalty for violating the public's trust by forfeiting their retirement benefits if convicted of certain federal offenses related to abuse of power.

**"The American people expect their federal employees, including Members of Congress, to be held to a higher ethical standard," Terry said. "Without the trust of the people and accountability for actions, the government cannot work. Just as the executives at Enron, who violated the trust of retirees and shareholders, were required to give up their large retirement and severance packages, government officials who have violated the trust of the American public should also have to give up their pensions and retirement pay. □**

**The abuse of power by a few does not represent the majority of government workers.**

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**The buck stops here."**

The bill amends an existing statute in Title 5 of the U.S. Code that currently provides for the forfeiture of retirement benefits of government employees (including Members of Congress) convicted of violating national security laws, such as treason. The PTA Act extends these penalties to include so-called "white collar" crimes, generally viewed as violations of fiduciary duties or public trust, such as bribery, embezzlement, or perjury.

The bill is prospective in nature so it cannot be retroactively applied to any person, as prohibited by the United States Constitution Section 1 Article 9. The legislation would apply to all federal employees, regardless of rank, position, or branch of government.

As of today, original co-sponsors include: Ms. Hart (R-PA), Mr. Sullivan (R-OK), Mr. Fortenberry

(R-NE), Mrs. Brown-Waite (R-FL), Mr. Murphy (R-PA), Mr. Walden (R-OR), Mr. Moran (R-KS),

Mr. Hoekstra (R-MI), Mr. Barrett (R-SC), Mr. McCotter (R-MI), Mr. Kirk (R-IL), Mr. Shadegg (R-AZ), Mike Rogers (R-MI), Mr. Nunes (R-CA), and Mr. Saxton (R-NJ), Mr. Akin (R-MO), Mr. Hostettler (R-IN), Mr. Franks (R-AZ), Mr. Culbertson (R-TX), Mr. Hayworth (R-AZ), Mr. Foxx (R-NC), Mr. McCaul (R-TX), Mr. Hensarling (R-TX), Mr. Jenkins (R-TX), and Mr. Pence (R-IN).

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