

**FRANK R. WOLF**

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SCIENCE

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

September 23, 2010

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The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 5111  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write to strongly support Mr. Christopher Coate's decision to comply with a federal subpoena to appear before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. I also wanted to make you aware that prior to appearing before the commission, Mr. Coates contacted me to share similar information relating to the equal enforcement of federal voting laws.

Mr. Coates has every right to bring this information to a Member of Congress as well as a responsibility to comply with the commission's subpoena, despite the department's obstruction. I trust that Mr. Coates will face no repercussion for his decision and expect you to inform political and career supervisors to respect his decision.

As you are aware, the 1912 Anti-Gag Legislation and Whistleblower Protection Laws for Federal Employees guaranteed that "the right of any persons employed in the civil service . . . to petition Congress, or any Member thereof, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to any committee or member thereof, shall not be denied or interfered with." (37 Stat. 555, 1912; codified at 5 U.S.C. 7211, 1994)

Additionally, you should be aware that federal officials who deny or interfere with employees' rights to furnish information to Congress are not entitled to have their salaries paid by the taxpayers. As ranking member on the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, I assure you that I take this statute very seriously and will do everything in my power to enforce it should any negative actions be taken against Mr. Coates as a result of his decision to contact Congress and appear before the commission.

A copy of this letter and Mr. Coate's testimony before the commission will be submitted to the *Congressional Record* for public review.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress