



SINCE 1909

THE NATIONAL
JOURNALISM CENTER

3909 N. MERIDIAN ST.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 46208

317-927-8000

FAX: 317-920-4789

SPJ@SPJ.ORG

WWW.SPJ.ORG

April 28, 2017

The Honorable Ralph Lee Abraham
417 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Ralph Lee Abraham,

Journalists in the United States work under difficult conditions. Many work in financially strapped newsrooms and report stories for a public that is increasingly skeptical about all sources of information. Yet, they show up to work each day, because they – like our country’s founders – understand how important the press is to a healthy democracy.

The Society of Professional Journalists, which is one of the nation’s oldest and largest journalism organizations, works around the clock to improve and protect this noble profession for all Americans through education and advocacy.

Today SPJ is closing out another Ethics Week, which is the annual celebration of responsible journalism as described by the organization’s Code of Ethics. You’ll find a copy of the Code enclosed with this letter.

Ethics Week 2017 included advertising in Times Square that explained the four tenets of SPJ’s Code of Ethics. There were also online discussions and in-person events hosted by the organization’s many chapters across the country.

Of course, SPJ works to promote and encourage responsible journalism throughout the year. The organization also calls out irresponsible journalism when we see it.

As the standard bearers for responsible and ethical journalism, SPJ is more than willing to work with your staff to reach out to your constituents with resources, tools and experts about the press. SPJ wants to keep up the momentum of Ethics Week 2017 and actively engage the public in conversations about responsible journalism. As a representative of a large chunk of those people, we also want to engage in a conversation with you about this issue.

We – along with a number of SPJ leaders – will be in the nation’s capital June 23 to honor the best journalism produced over the past year with our organization’s Sigma Delta Chi Awards. If you or a member of your staff is available, we’d be happy to meet to discuss SPJ’s work and the challenges facing the press.

Thank you for your time. We hope to see you in June.

Sincerely,

Lynn Walsh
National President

Andrew Seaman
Ethics Committee Chair