

Statement of Zachery Schoffstall

It would seem in my journey of life I am truly nearing the dawn of a new day.

It was the Spring of 2001 when I first set my sights on becoming an FBI Special Agent. It was a different time, the Twin Towers still stood as symbols of American economic might, terrorism seemed remote, President Bush was putting the weight of the Presidency behind “No Child Left Behind,” and I was looking for a trajectory that would lead to a life of purpose and adventure. Then, the towers fell, the Pentagon burned, a field in Pennsylvania was plowed through, our fellow citizens died, and our country went to war. I happily put on my country’s uniform, went where I was told and saw the other side of the world. But I never lost sight of my dream to become an FBI Special Agent. In 2008, that dream became reality.

For years, I lived that dream and lived a life of service and purpose. International terrorism, gangs, drugs, guns, money laundering, counterfeiting, robbery, human trafficking, and corruption, I worked it all with pride, purpose, and satisfaction. After 11 years in the FBI, I became a field supervisor with the hopes of being that leader who never lost touch with what it took to get the job done. The leader who was there, ensuring his agents had the tools, the room, and the support to bring criminals to justice. I never would have guessed that I would have to support and protect those agents from our own FBI and our own Department of Justice. My decisions to support my agents in their refusal to attest to a false search warrant affidavit are history now, but the cost is still being paid.

From the retaliation against me for my protected whistleblower disclosure, to my removal from the FBI, to my fight for reinstatement, the road to this day has been long, at times dark, and it has taken a substantial toll on me personally and my family. Though I am committing myself to returning to the service of the American people, I still hold out hope that as this Administration continues to right historical wrongs from Administrations before it, that it will ensure accountability for those who knowingly provided false information to the courts, and used the system to punish employees for upholding their oaths and the rule of law.

Pursuant to the leadership of this Administration, in September of 2025, I was reinstated to the rolls of the FBI. Since that time, I have been made whole: owed back pay has been paid and I’ve been given continuous time in service credit, from the date I was wrongfully removed. Along with my return to duty, damages paid, and the removal of the false accusations against me, I have finally attained vindication for my decision to support my agents, my oath, our Constitution, and the rule of law.

The fulfillment of my settlement agreement with the FBI and Justice Department is the dawn of a new day. But as that dawn begins to break, I find myself eternally grateful that in the end, I did not stand alone. I had friends, I had family, I had fellow Agents - I had attorneys and, in the end, I had a coalition. That coalition of Empower Oversight, Senator Charles Grassley, President Donald J. Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Director Kash Patel, and their leadership teams, enabled my fight for justice to finally see daylight. And for that coalition, for the support of my friends, my family, the steadfast support of my attorneys and for the leadership of this Administration, I will forever be thankful.