



## Partisan charade

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Columnist Adriana Cohen's suggestion that "the impeachment push is a partisan charade" is based upon upon an "eye-popping" revelation that "the intelligence community inspector general secretly changed the rule requiring whistleblowers to have first hand knowledge when submitting a complaint."

But that revelation, first reported in the Federalist, is without merit. An intelligence form was updated, but as Julian Fellows, senior fellow at Cato Institute, pointed out, "There was never a requirement that whistleblowers provide direct first-hand knowledge of alleged wrongdoings."

The Inspector General's Office issued a statement on September 30. It states, "Although the form requests information about whether the Complainant possesses first-hand knowledge about the matter about which he or she is lodging the complaint, there is no such requirement set forth in the statute. In fact, by law, the Complainant ... need not possess first-hand information in order to file a complaint or information with respect to an urgent concern."

Not only does no requirement exist that a whistleblower possess first-hand knowledge of alleged wrong-doing, changing those rules would require an act of Congress.

We agree with Ms. Cohen that this is serious business, but her allegation of a "conspiracy between deep state operative with the intelligence community and Democrats" is unfounded. Corrosive partisan conspiracy theories are the last thing we need now.