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# United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

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WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497  
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131 WEST 3RD STREET  
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307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
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August 13, 2012

## Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Michele Leonhart  
Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
700 Army Navy Drive, Room 12060  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

In light of the recent revelations of the Food and Drug Administration using SpectorSoft software to spy on its employees' protected communications with Congress and the Office of Special Counsel, Congress needs to understand how extensively this software is used by other agencies, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). A recent article in *The National Law Journal* states that the DEA purchased SpectorSoft software, "eBlaster" software specifically, in 2011. A description for this product states that it can "immediately go to work by automatically recording EVERYTHING your children and employees do online."<sup>1</sup> A spokeswoman is quoted in this article stating that the software is used for "law enforcement purposes, not for monitoring employee communication." However, this same spokeswoman also stated that, "employees are aware that communications through and matters stored on official equipment can be monitored and reviewed." Even though this spokeswoman further states that the DEA does not monitor computers for the purposes of controlling whistleblower activity, the capability is there and readily available if management wants to secretly monitor such activity.

To better understand the extent of the DEA's use of monitoring software, if any, please answer the following questions in written form by August 31, 2012.

1. Please describe the nature of DEA's use of SpectorSoft Software, specifically the "eBlaster" software described. Where it is used, how often it is used, for what reasons it is used, and who authorized the purchase of the software?
2. Is the DEA using SpectorSoft software, or others like it, to monitor employees? Please describe how many and what type of employees are monitored and for what purpose they are monitored. Is the monitoring limited to leak investigations or is it broad and systematic?

<sup>1</sup> Greene, Jenna and Ruger, Todd. "DEA, V.A. bought spy software." *The National Law Journal*. July 30, 2012.

[http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202564724828&DEA\\_VA\\_bought\\_spy\\_software&slreturn=20120630090014](http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202564724828&DEA_VA_bought_spy_software&slreturn=20120630090014). (Emphasis in original).

3. Is the monitoring software used to monitor employees' personal email accounts or to obtain personal passwords?
4. Are any employee email contacts with Congress monitored in any way?

If you have any questions or concerns please contact David Bleich of my staff at 202-228-0927.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member