

Rep. Rudy Yakym (IN-02) – Budget Committee Member Day 2025
Written Testimony

Thank you, Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle for the opportunity to share my policy priorities with you today.

Improper payments are a blatant waste of taxpayer dollars, and we need to prioritize taking steps to fully understand the size and scope of these errant payments.

I'm proud to be leading the H.R. 1771, the *Improper Payments Transparency Act* with my colleagues, Representatives Panetta, Bergman, and Peters, which would require the President's budget request to include program-by-program data on improper payments including amounts and rates, three-year averages, and steps being taken to mitigate improper payments.

Since 2003, the federal government has made over \$2.8 trillion in improper payments. According to the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, in fiscal year 2024 alone an estimated over \$162 billion in improper payments were made. That's unacceptable.

Digging deeper into the GAO data, 84% of the \$162 billion dollars in improper payments were due to overpayments. 25% of the Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness was improper payments. Upwards of 27% of Earned Income Tax Credit claims are improper.

I'm a businessman by background and I can tell you no business would survive allowing 27% of its payments to be overpayments. Taxpayers expect more from their government, and we should too.

We must never forget every dollar collected through taxes is a dollar that hardworking Americans do not get to put towards feeding their families, buying a house, or saving for retirement.

I know the Hoosiers I represent definitely want us to start spending more wisely. An easy way to do that is to put an end to improper payments.

For us to get improper payments under control, we need to understand the full scope of the problem, and the current efforts being made by federal agencies to correct these errant payments. This bipartisan bill will do just that.

I ask that the Budget Committee hold a markup for this important legislation. I was grateful that this bipartisan bill was passed out of Committee last Congress. Thank you for your consideration.