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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DELIVERING ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT
CYBERSECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Cheryl Mason
Chair
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
1750 H Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Ms. Mason,

I write to request information to assist Congress in its oversight of the federal government's capacity to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse, particularly in light of recent developments affecting Offices of Inspectors General across the federal government.

Congress has tasked Inspectors General to independently hold federal agencies accountable and safeguard taxpayer dollars. Their role is to identify and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. These watchdogs play a critical role in overseeing federally funded programs and detecting improper payments, including in federally funded, state-administered programs.

However, over the last year and a half, the Trump Administration has taken several steps that undermine the capacity of the Inspector General community to fully carry out this mission. To date, the administration has fired 19 Inspectors General without the congressional notification required under 5 U.S.C. § 403(b). As a result, more than three quarters of presidentially appointed Inspector General positions are currently vacant, which may significantly limit the government's ability to identify improper payments and conduct meaningful oversight.¹

At the same time, the President's recent budget request will further constrain the Inspector General community. Funding for Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) has been withheld at various points, and the President's FY27 budget proposal includes reductions to multiple Offices of Inspector General. Notably, the proposal includes a \$13.7 million reduction to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, which plays a central role in identifying and preventing fraud and improper payments across Medicare and Medicaid programs.

¹<https://ourpublicservice.org/blog/president-trumps-firing-of-inspectors-general-threatens-government-accountability-and-efficiency/>

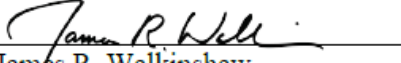
Taken together, these developments weaken Congress and the federal government's ability to conduct oversight of federally funded programs, including those administered by the states. Given CIGIE's role in coordinating and supporting Inspectors General across the federal government, your perspective is critical to understanding the scope and impact of these changes.

To inform Congress's oversight of fraud and improper payments, I respectfully request responses to the following questions no later than May 15, 2026.

1. What is the current status of all Inspector General positions across federal agencies, including:
 - a. which IG positions are vacant or have an acting individual in the role;
 - b. how long each position has been vacant or filled by an acting employee; and
2. What steps are being taken or what gaps exist across the Inspector General community with regard to ensuring that Offices of Inspectors General remain fully staffed, independent, and equipped to carry out their statutory mission to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, particularly in light of resource constraints?
 - a. please provide quarterly data on staffing levels within IG offices across the federal government from December 2024 to present.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that federal funds are protected from misuse, and fully functioning, independent Inspectors General are essential to that mission. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress

