

House Judiciary Committee

Member Day Hearing | November 20, 2025

TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this Member Day hearing and providing me with the opportunity to share the concerns of my constituents.

As you continue your important work, I strongly urge the Committee to address issues of protecting our veterans from fraud and strengthening guardrails against those targeting vulnerable populations.

Far too often, I hear from veteran constituents, many of whom are seniors, who have been wrongfully defrauded of their earned benefits by bad actors. Criminals often prey on veterans' desperation by posing as facilitators, but instead scam veterans out of their benefits by various methods.

Active-duty service members, National Guard personnel, veterans, and their families lost nearly 25 percent more money to scammers in 2024 than the previous year, with reported losses totaling \$584 million, according to consumer complaints filed with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

To address this emergency, I introduced the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act alongside my colleague from Pennsylvania and Member of this Committee, Representative Scanlon. This bipartisan bill adds appropriate penalties to those actors who knowingly defraud a veteran of their earned benefits, subjecting fraudsters to a fine and/or five years in prison.

This bill has garnered strong bipartisan support, and has been passed out of the House of Representatives with near unanimous consent in the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses.

Individuals who defraud our veterans must be held accountable and punished. It is critical that the men and women who served our country receive their hard-earned benefits from the VA, and I'm proud to lead this bipartisan legislation to crack-down on fraudsters who take advantage of our veterans. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to advance this legislation and protect our nation's veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee and on my colleagues on commonsense solutions to protect vulnerable communities.

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STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD OF REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this Member Day hearing and providing me with the opportunity to speak on a policy priority that is vital to both Congress and the American people – preserving the Senate filibuster.

Since the 1970s, the Senate filibuster has served as a key tool for fostering bipartisan cooperation and ensuring that major legislation incorporates perspectives from both sides of the aisle. To preserve this principle, I introduced H.J.Res.4, which would codify the Senate’s 60-vote cloture requirement, and in turn guarantee that both parties remain actively engaged in the legislative process.

This bipartisan amendment would make the Senate’s three-fifths requirement to invoke cloture a permanent part of Senate procedure, preventing any future use of the “nuclear option” to eliminate it. It preserves all current exceptions to the filibuster, including the provision requiring only a simple majority for presidential nominations and budget reconciliation. Crucially, it would take effect only upon ratification by three-fourths of the states.

As a result of the filibuster, legislative outcomes are more stable, measured, and representative of the American people. Recognizing the importance of this bipartisan tool, the Problem Solvers Caucus formally endorsed H.J.Res.4 earlier this month.

Bipartisan collaboration and compromise are the cornerstones of a healthy democracy. For this collaboration to be meaningful, it must be a two-way street, applied consistently and fairly, regardless of who holds the presidency or controls Congress. If the filibuster were eliminated, Congress’s ability to function as a truly representative and deliberative body would be permanently weakened. With this in mind, I urge the Committee to take action to permanently safeguard this principle, ensuring that bipartisan cooperation endures for generations to come.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee and all my colleagues on commonsense, bipartisan solutions that uphold the integrity of our democracy.