

Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking your personal time to allow members to speak before your committee on our individual bills. We recognize it is incredibly time-consuming, and requires great dedication from you. So thank you for giving me a chance to speak for a minute.

There is an appropriate role, Mr. Chairman, for regulatory enforcement and authority reflective of that enforcement within the federal government. But there is a requirement to balance the rights of our individual citizens across the country and every sovereign state to feel safe and secure in their properties, their business, their residence, et cetera. They should not feel threatened by their federal government.

So my bill, H.R. 4416, called the No Funds for Armed Regulators Act of 2023, was born of my own interactions with constituents that, to my horror, I discovered once I came to Congress seven years ago this is a far too regular theme, where regulators from -- especially from the IRS, the DoL, and the EPA will roll into a private business or, in many cases, a farm in an unmarked police car. It is unexpected, an unannounced visit.

This farmer sees this car coming up the long gravel driveway, recognizes maybe it is a police car, but what are they doing here? And two unknown agents get out, and they are armed, and they have quite an attitude in most cases, my investigation has revealed, and they are there to enforce this regulation or that regulation. And that individual American at that time is fearful and intimidated, and it is an unnecessary intrusion into their lives and oppression of the sanctity of their business and their home in the interest of enforcing a regulation.

So a regulator has every right to perform within the parameters of the law to do his job. He doesn't have to be armed. That is a bridge too far for these armed agents from the IRS, EPA, DoL rolling into a private American's life, frightening that American, scaring that family. It is uncalled for. It is literally the most extreme weaponization of the federal government against American people.

If a regulator thinks he has a problem with American citizens, he can call local law enforcement. It used to happen all the time, all the time. If a regulator was going onto land, wasn't exactly sure how to get there, maybe long gravel roads, et cetera, especially in agricultural

areas, they would call the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office would send a deputy and escort them out there. No problem. That family, that farmer knows that sheriff, recognizes that car. That is his sheriff, that is his deputy. That is much more of a peaceful engagement.

But things have changed over the last several years, and it is the responsibility of Congress to fix it. So quite simply, my bill would disarm these armed regulators that do have a job to do. But just like your city code enforcement or your county code enforcement, could you imagine your city code enforcement having a report that say the gate on the fence around your pool was off the hinges? So can you imagine an armed team showing up at your home, rolling into your backyard to observe your broken gate and giving you a citation? That is the kind of regulatory enforcement we are dealing with that we have to put the brakes on.

My bill would spend less money from the federal government and help to restore the sanctity and individual rights and freedoms of individual Americans across the country. I urge broad bipartisan support to this bill. It should pass Congress. It is the right thing to do. And I am prayerful that my colleagues will support the bill.