

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**May 20, 2021**

**To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Committee Business Meeting**

On **Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and remotely on the Zoom video platform**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid business meeting to consider the following:

1. H.R. 2662, the IG Independence and Empowerment Act;
2. H.R. 302, the Preventing a Patronage System Act;
3. H.R. 2617, the Performance Enhancement Reform Act;
4. H.R. 3327, the No CORRUPTION Act;
5. H.R. 1297, the Air America Act;
6. H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the Gold Star Children Act; and
7. Postal naming measures.

**I. H.R. 2662, THE IG INDEPENDENCE AND EMPOWERMENT ACT**

On April 19, 2021, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, along with Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Reps. Gerry Connolly, Stephen Lynch, Jimmy Gomez, Katie Porter, and Ted Lieu, introduced H.R. 2662, the Inspector General Independence and Empowerment Act. The Committee held a legislative hearing on this bill on May 3, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Improving Government Accountability and Transparency* (May 3, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/improving-government-accountability-and-transparency>).

Since enactment of the Inspector General Act in 1978, inspectors general (IGs) have provided oversight of the executive branch. Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) play a critical role in independently and objectively working to help recover overpayments by government agencies; identify risks and program improvement areas; and root out fraud, waste, abuse, and gross mismanagement.<sup>2</sup>

The bill is a comprehensive reform proposal and includes a number of bills that have been introduced separately with bipartisan support. This bill includes provisions that would: allow an IG to be removed only for cause, require Congress to be notified before an IG is placed on non-duty status, require that an acting IG be an existing IG for another agency or serving as senior staff in an OIG, and increase accountability and transparency for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Integrity Committee.

The bill would also: grant IGs the authority to subpoena witnesses for testimony who are not currently government employees, provide the Department of Justice (DOJ) IG the authority to investigate wrongdoing by DOJ attorneys instead of deferring to the DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility, expand whistleblower trainings to Office of Inspector General employees, require notification to Congress and CIGIE of an IG's ongoing investigations when an IG is placed on non-duty status, provide a single appropriation for CIGIE, and require IGs to notify Congress if agencies deny access to requested information.

## **II. H.R. 302, THE PREVENTING A PATRONAGE SYSTEM ACT**

H.R. 302, the Preventing a Patronage System Act, was introduced by Subcommittee on Government Operations Chairman Gerry Connolly and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick on January 13, 2021. The bill would protect merit-system principles by limiting federal employee reclassifications to the five excepted service schedules in use prior to Fiscal Year 2021.

## **III. H.R. 2617, THE PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT REFORM ACT**

H.R. 2617, the Performance Enhancement Reform Act, was introduced by Subcommittee on Government Operations Chairman Gerry Connolly and Ranking Member Jody Hice on April 16, 2021. The Performance Enhancement Reform Act would require agencies' chief performance officers to work in consultation with the chief human capital officer, the chief information officer, the chief data officer, and the chief financial officer to prepare the annual performance plans required of each agency by law. The bill also would require agency performance plans to include descriptions of human capital, training, data and evidence, information technology, and skill sets needed for the agency to meet the agency's performance goals.

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<sup>2</sup> P.L. 95-452 (1978), as amended.

#### **IV. H.R. 3327, THE NO CORRUPTION OBLIGATED RECURRING REVENUE USED AS PENSIONS TO INCARCERATED OFFICIALS NOW (NO CORRUPTION) ACT**

H.R. 3327, the No CORRUPTION Act, was introduced by Rep. Ralph Norman on May 19, 2021, with bipartisan cosponsors, including Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer. The Senate companion bill introduced by Sen. Jacky Rosen was unanimously ordered reported favorably by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 17, 2021. The bill would prohibit former Members of Congress from receiving pension payments in the period between conviction of a crime and sentencing.

Under current law, a Member's federal pension is terminated when "finally convicted" of certain crimes, such as bribery or perjury. This has been interpreted to allow for Members who are awaiting sentencing—which can take months, and even longer if the Member pursues appeals—to continue to collect pension payments. This bill would prevent retirement benefits from being paid during that process after conviction of a crime and would apply to convictions that occur after the date of enactment. In the event that a conviction is overturned on appeal, the Member would be reimbursed for any pension payments that had been withheld.

#### **V. H.R. 1297, THE AIR AMERICA ACT**

H.R. 1297, the Air America Act of 2021, was introduced by Rep. Grothman on February 4, 2021. It has over 100 bipartisan cosponsors in the House. An identical bill was introduced in the Senate by Senators Marco Rubio and Mark Warner. The bill would grant federal-employee status to Air America, Inc., employees who flew missions as part of Central Intelligence Agency operations in military conflicts between 1950 and 1976 and make them or their heirs eligible for federal retirement benefits.

Recently declassified documents have shown that Air America, Inc., was an airline company wholly owned by the U.S. government, but the employees have never been recognized as federal employees. This bill would classify their time employed by Air America as creditable service and make them (or their heirs) eligible for federal retirement benefits. Eligible survivors of deceased Air America employees will have two years after enactment of this Act to apply for benefits.

#### **VI. H.R. \_\_\_\_, THE GOLD STAR CHILDREN ACT**

H.R. \_\_\_\_, the Gold Star Children Act, will be introduced prior to the business meeting by Reps. Van Taylor and Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The bill would extend veterans' preference in federal hiring to the children of certain veterans who died during a war or campaign or who are totally disabled as a result of their service. Veterans of the Armed Forces have a degree of preference in appointments to federal jobs. Congress enacted veterans' preference laws to recognize the economic loss suffered by veterans, restore veterans to a favorable competitive position for federal employment, and acknowledge the larger obligation

owed to disabled veterans.<sup>3</sup> Veterans' preference is also extended to certain spouses, widows, widowers, or mothers of veterans who have served during certain time periods or in military campaigns or who have a service-connected total disability. Under current law, the children of these veterans are not eligible for preference.

## VII. POSTAL NAMING MEASURES

- **H.R. 207**, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 1st Avenue in Amory, Mississippi, as the “Command Sergeant Major Lawrence E. ‘Rabbit’ Kennedy Post Office Building.” (Rep. Trent Kelly)
- **H. R. 209**, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 305 Highway 15 North in Pontotoc, Mississippi, as the “Lance Corporal Marc Lucas Tucker Post Office Building.” (Rep. Trent Kelly)
- **H.R. 3175**, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the “Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building.” (Rep. Palazzo)
- **H.R. 3210**, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the “Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building.” (Rep. Neguse)
- **H.R. \_\_\_\_**, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Joseph R. Lentol Post Office.” (Rep. Maloney)

## VIII. AMENDMENT PROCESS

Committee Rule 2(g) authorizes the Chair of the Committee to prioritize the consideration of amendments filed 24 hours in advance of the consideration of matters before the Committee or subcommittees. Pursuant to this rule, and at the Chair’s discretion, the Committee may consider amendments that are pre-filed with the Committee clerk prior to amendments offered at a markup.

Members should pre-file amendments with the clerk of the Committee by emailing a searchable, electronic PDF copy of the amendment prepared by the House Legislative Counsel to Oversight\_Clerks@mail.house.gov and to Christina Parisi at Christina.Parisi@mail.house.gov at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the business meeting. Members should include in the email accompanying the amendment text:

1. the name(s) of the member(s) who will offer the amendment;

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<sup>3</sup> Office of Personnel Management, *Vet Guide for HR Professionals* (accessed May 19, 2021) (online at [www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/veterans-services/vet-guide-for-hr-professionals/](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/veterans-services/vet-guide-for-hr-professionals/)).

2. the name and number of the measure to be amended;
3. a brief, one-sentence description of the amendment; and
4. the name and phone number of a staff member who will serve as the point of contact for the amendment.

Pre-filed amendments will be compiled into a single roster, and the roster will be made available to Committee members prior to business meetings. Any amendment to a measure or matter before the Committee or a subcommittee should be germane to the measure or matter, including in scope, subject matter, and Committee consideration. Votes on amendments likely will be grouped together at a time determined by the Chair, pursuant to Committee Rules.