

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2021

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Restoring Independence: Rebuilding the Federal Offices of Inspectors General”

On **Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold a hearing to examine the importance of objective and impartial inspectors general (IGs) and methods by which to strengthen their independence. The hearing will convene in person in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building and remotely using WebEx.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

Since they were established in 1978, Offices of the Inspector General (OIGs) have provided critical oversight of executive branch operations: they help recover overpayments by government agencies, identify risks and program improvement areas, and root out fraud, waste, abuse, and gross mismanagement.¹ The IGs and their employees work by the creed of independence and objectivity, and despite being politically appointed in many cases, IGs strive to remain outside of the political fray, using data, evidence, and authenticated resources to draft nonpartisan reports and conduct oversight.² This hearing will examine the importance of objective and impartial IGs, ways to strengthen their independence, and the tools they need to provide effective oversight of both their agencies and themselves.

II. WITNESSES

Allison C. Lerner
Inspector General
National Science Foundation
Chair
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

¹ Pub. L. No. 95-452 (1978), as amended.

² Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *The Inspectors General* (July 14, 2014) (online at www.ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/IG_Authorities_Paper_-_Final_6-11-14.pdf); Government Accountability Office Government Auditing Standards, (July 2018) (online at www.gao.gov/assets/700/694881.pdf).

Kathy A. Buller

Inspector General

Peace Corps

Executive Chair

Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Legislation Committee

Clark K. Ervin

Former Inspector General

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