

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee has been working tirelessly to strengthen taxpayer rights. This year alone, the committee has approved several pieces of legislation giving taxpayers fairer treatment. The Tax Court Improvement Act is another one of these solutions.

The IRS is the most feared Federal agency for good reason, but we are working to change that. In addition to pursuing partisan aims, it has a long-documented history of treating taxpayer rights as mere suggestions.

This bill will give taxpayers more confidence and greater protections when litigating their case before the U.S. Tax Court.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MORAN and Congresswoman SEWELL for championing taxpayer rights. This bill received total support in the Ways and Means Committee, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5349, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 225) to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 225

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "HUD Transparency Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.

Not later than October 1 of each year, the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall appear before the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and present testimony on the Office of Inspector General's—

(1) efforts to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;

(2) ability to conduct and supervise audits, investigations, and reviews;

(3) actions to identify opportunities for the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to progress and succeed;

(4) recommendations to improve overall efficiency and public accountability of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(5) assessment of the extent to which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has resources sufficient to carry out its statutory mission; and

(6) ongoing activities regarding any such additional work, as appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act.

I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ, for sponsoring this legislation.

The HUD Transparency Act of 2025 is a piece of commonsense legislation that strengthens accountability, enhances oversight, and ensures the American people have a clear view into how Federal housing dollars are spent.

For years, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, has administered programs that touch millions of families, seniors, and veterans in communities across our Nation. These programs are critical. They support affordable housing development, combat homelessness, and help communities recover after disasters.

Unfortunately, over the years, in my view, the agency has shown time and time again they are unable to perform some basic functions. The agency continually fails to hold local public housing authorities responsible for providing safe housing.

Reports from the inspector general, the Government Accountability Office, and our own committee have repeatedly identified some of the same issues: outdated and incomplete reporting, inconsistent and unverifiable data, missed deadlines, and major programs operating without clear evidence of effectiveness.

As the branch with the power of the purse, it is Congress' responsibility to ensure tax dollars that go toward HUD's programs are managed effectively, efficiently, and transparently. H.R. 225 delivers on that responsibility.

This bill requires the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to annually testify before Congress so we can ensure the Department is meeting its performance reporting and management standards. By requiring the HUD Inspector General to appear in front of Congress, Ms. DE LA CRUZ's bill makes HUD take the necessary steps to publish key performance information, re-

port program outcomes in a timely manner, and makes the data available so Congress and the public can better ensure Federal housing programs are meeting their goals.

The HUD Transparency Act is a straightforward, bipartisan solution to a longstanding problem. HUD needs to use consistent reporting formats so Congress can compare outcomes across programs and track progress over time. It ensures that the American people can see how their tax dollars are being used.

These are basic principles of good governance. Transparency strengthens public trust and improves program performance. It allows Congress to address problems early instead of after tax dollars have been wasted or ones in need have been left behind.

Importantly, this bill does so without imposing new burdens on State or local governments and without slowing down the delivery of critical housing assistance. H.R. 225 simply ensures that HUD operates with the openness and accountability the American people expect and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. DE LA CRUZ for this important measure, and I urge our colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative DE LA CRUZ.

Oversight is a core function of the Financial Services Committee. Inspectors general also play a critical role in providing transparency about the functions of government, as well as holding government officials accountable.

They are able to do this because they are independent of the officials they oversee, and until recently, were only removed for cause.

However, since taking office, President Trump has fired over 20 IGs across the government. The majority of these IG firings took place in the first week President Trump took office and violated lawful removal procedures as they came with no warning or rationale.

In fact, the Trump administration has kept more than three in four presidentially appointed inspector general positions vacant and without Senate-confirmed leadership.

These actions not only silence future IGs but leave the public less informed about critical activities happening across agencies.

Dangerously, Trump's actions, combined with Republican House leadership who are unwilling to investigate anything Trump's team does, enable the Trump administration to be entirely unaccountable.

Notably, the HUD Inspector General this bill would require to testify before our committee was one of the people Trump arbitrarily fired earlier this year.

Since that firing, the acting HUD IG has been replaced again, and there is no one being considered by the Senate for confirmation. As a result, no one in this Chamber knows when our committee will be able to receive this testimony.

That said, and while I support this bill, this debate ignores the real and urgent challenges facing HUD and our housing market, and how the President and his administration are actively taking steps to undermine efforts to address the affordable housing crisis.

For example, where is the legislation from our Republican colleagues to stop Trump's plan to gut existing permanent supportive housing that could force more than 170,000 people back on the streets? Twenty States and D.C. have already sued HUD citing the plan as chaotic and unlawful.

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Mr. Speaker, where are their investigations into the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Bill Pulte, who is weaponizing the housing finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for politically motivated witch hunts and trying to lock new home buyers into 50-year mortgages?

If Republicans wanted to lower housing costs, why aren't they calling to exempt materials like lumber from Trump's tariffs or why aren't we negotiating the ROAD to Housing Act so that it can be included in NDAA and quickly passed into law?

Mr. Speaker, the invitation to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is open. Join us in finally taking steps to address the rising costs of housing. The American public wants us to lower their bills, and Democrats have numerous ideas about how to do that. Join us in ensuring that the HUD inspector general has the independence to do their job without fear of retaliation when they uncover corruption or abuse of power.

We will join Republicans in passing this bill today, but we need to finally get to work to deliver real change for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office estimate for this bill.

H.R. 225, HUD TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON JULY 15, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2030	2025–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	**

* = between zero and \$500,000.
** = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:
Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.
Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 225 would require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to testify annually before the Congress on different topics including the sufficiency of the agency's resources, actions taken to identify opportunities for program improvement, and the inspector general's ability to investigate and audit HUD programs to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

Using information from the agency, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 225 would cost less than \$500,000. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Zunara Naeem. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 225, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025.

This commonsense legislation requires annual testimony from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's inspector general. By doing so, the HUD Transparency Act adds formal oversight over HUD that does not currently exist.

In the past, Congress has gone years without hearing from HUD's inspector general. With a budget that exceeds \$70 billion, we must have proper oversight over HUD to ensure housing programs are working for all Americans.

That being said, my bill will require the inspector general to provide Congress with recommendations and insights into reforming HUD's programs and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in our Federal spending.

Housing issues impact all Americans. I commend this administration for their focus on restoring the American Dream of homeownership by bringing down housing costs and cutting red tape. Our HUD programs play a critical role in increasing the affordable housing supply and access nationwide.

However, the success of HUD's programs relies on the Department's ability to root out fraud, waste, and abuse. The HUD Transparency Act aids in this by adding critical oversight to ensure that those who qualify for HUD's programs can receive the housing assistance that they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, this legislation has a strong record of bipartisan support, including passage in the House in the 118th Congress.

As this legislation continues to receive overwhelming bipartisan support,

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, the HUD Transparency Act of 2025.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, HUD plays a vital role in providing safe and affordable housing to families all across the United States. Families depend on HUD's programs to keep a roof over their heads.

H.R. 225 would allow Congress and the public to hear directly from an independent oversight authority, provided one is ever confirmed, and offer more transparency into the functions and operations of HUD, especially at a time when Trump's appointees are abusing their power.

I again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

For the reasons I explained earlier, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 225, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO NEW BURMA FUNDS ACT

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4423) to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4423

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No New Burma Funds Act".

SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF PAUSE ON WORLD BANK DISBURSEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS TO BURMA.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the United States Executive Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use the voice and vote of the United States to continue the pause by the Bank on disbursements and the making of new financing commitments to the Government of Burma, that was initiated after a military coup overthrew the democratically elected Government of Burma in 2021, unless the Secretary of the Treasury determines that it is not in the national interest to do so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.