

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) such time as he may consume.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

Every year, the Federal Government loses hundreds of billions of dollars to fraud and improper payments.

The Government Accountability Office estimates that the Federal Government has lost over \$2.8 trillion since 2003 to payments that should never have been made or were made incorrectly.

Annual improper payments ballooned to nearly \$236 billion in fiscal year 2023, more than six times the amount in 2003.

The Government Accountability Office also estimates that the Federal Government loses between \$233 billion and \$521 billion annually to fraud across government programs.

Fraud at these levels costs each tax filer, on average, between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per year. These losses should alarm each one of us and call us to action. The American taxpayer is covering the bill for fraud while criminals get rich.

This bill takes meaningful steps to mitigate this problem by meaningfully curbing fraudulent payments and improper payments before funds go out the door and are lost forever.

The Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act enhances and expands government financial integrity controls by requiring anti-fraud risk evaluations to identify suspicious payments before agencies request a payment be issued by the U.S. Treasury.

These reforms are centered around increasing the use and effectiveness of the Treasury's existing Do Not Pay system. It is currently only utilized by a mere 4 percent of eligible programs across the government.

This bill will address the procedural hurdles agencies face in using the system and bring agencies into compliance with their required anti-fraud checks.

The bill also lowers barriers for the Treasury to bring additional non-sensitive datasets into the Do Not Pay system.

This legislation was drafted in coordination with privacy stakeholders to ensure appropriate data protection safeguards for personal and sensitive information.

The reforms in this legislation are commonsense and long overdue.

I thank House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member GARCÍA and his staff for working together with us to ensure such crucial legislation could advance on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have a strong bill that will truly make a meaningful difference for the financial and program integrity of the U.S. Government. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan reform bill.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

This bill will help prevent improper payments by requiring that agencies verify with the U.S. Treasury that payments are going to the right place before they are made. Agencies would be required to use the Treasury's Do Not Pay system to confirm that recipients, one, have a valid Social Security number; two, are not deceased; and, three, have a valid bank account.

The bill would also impose heavy fines for any misuse of the Do Not Pay system.

This is a commonsense change, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act. I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 8463. I congratulate the chair and ranking member on their bipartisan work, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

As Chairman COMER, the bill's sponsor, explained, this legislation enhances and expands the government's financial integrity controls by codifying agency pre-payment anti-fraud risk evaluations.

This will help identify suspicious payments before they are sent out the door, stopping fraudulent or improper payments before they happen.

In fiscal year 2025, the U.S. Treasury Department reported that they have helped agencies and States prevent and recover over \$11 billion in fraudulent and improper payments. They have done this by using existing tools such as the Do Not Pay system.

However, as the chairman explained, these systems are being drastically un-

derutilized by Federal agencies and are in need of certain reforms. We can only imagine the additional savings that H.R. 8463's reforms will help achieve by increasing the pre-payment fraud prevention activities of Federal agencies and increasing the utilization of the Do Not Pay system.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan H.R. 8463 so we can protect taxpayers, ensure proper program integrity, and prevent fraud before it happens.

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 Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8463, 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.

FEDERAL PROGRAM INTEGRITY AND FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6916) to amend title 41, United States Code, to identify individuals who commit certain Federal felonies implicating Federal programs as an excluded source on the System for Award Management Exclusions list, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6916

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 "Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM BEING PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FELONIES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§3337. Prohibiting Federal Funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not enter into, renew, or extend a Federal contract, or provide a grant or other Federal financial assistance to, an individual convicted of a covered felony arising out of any Federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or other financial assistance, or to an entity of which such individual is a beneficial owner, during the three year period following the date of the conviction.

"(2) APPLICATION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to an individual convicted after the date of the enactment of this section.

"(b) WAIVER.—

"(1) AUTHORITY.—The head of an agency may waive on a case-by-case basis the prohibition under subsection (a) with respect to an individual or entity described under such

subsection if the head of the agency determines such waiver is justifiable.

“(2) WRITTEN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF WAIVER.—Immediately after making a determination to issue a waiver under paragraph (1), the head of an agency shall provide to Congress a written notification of such determination that includes the justification for the waiver.

“(C) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—For each individual convicted of a covered felony arising out of any Federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or other financial assistance—

“(1) the Attorney General shall notify the Administrator of General Services in a timely manner of such conviction; and

“(2) the Administrator shall promptly update the System for Award Management Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code, or any successor regulation, to include such individual.

“(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance for the implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements of this section.

“(e) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

“(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) FEDERAL INTERESTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an agency from seeking or taking any other available criminal, civil, or administrative action to protect Federal Government interests, including the proposal or implementation of suspension or debarment actions pursuant to subpart 9.4 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code.

“(2) EXCLUSION.—Nothing in subsection (b) may be construed to affect any other statutory or regulatory waiver authority related to an exclusion.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means—

“(A) an Executive department (as defined under section 101 of title 5);

“(B) a military department (as defined under section 102 of title 5);

“(C) a Government corporation (as defined under section 103 of title 5); and

“(D) an independent establishment (as defined under section 104(1) of title 5).

“(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘beneficial owner’—

“(A) means, with respect to an entity, an individual who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

“(i) exercises substantial control over the entity; or

“(ii) owns or controls not less than 25 percent of the ownership interests of the entity; and

“(B) does not include—

“(i) a minor child, as defined in the jurisdiction in which the entity is formed, if the information of the parent or guardian of the minor child is reported in accordance with this section;

“(ii) an individual acting as a nominee, intermediary, custodian, or agent on behalf of another individual;

“(iii) an individual acting solely as an employee of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity and whose control over or economic benefits from such entity is derived solely from the employment status of the person;

“(iv) an individual whose only interest in a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity is through a right of inheritance; or

“(v) a creditor of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity, unless the creditor meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“(3) CONVICTED.—The term ‘convicted’ means any of the following:

“(A) A judgment of conviction has been entered against the individual by a Federal court, except for any individual whose conviction has been reversed or vacated.

“(B) A plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the individual has been accepted by a Federal court, except for any case in which the conviction entered as result of such plea has been reversed or vacated.

“(C) The individual has entered into a first offender, deferred adjudication, deferred prosecution, or other arrangement or program in which the individual admitted guilt or responsibility to the underlying offense.

“(4) COVERED FELONY.—The term ‘covered felony’ means a felony described under section 286, 287, 371, 508, 641, 666, 1001, 1002, 1014, 1017, 1028, 1028A, 1030, 1031, 1040(a)(2), 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18 or section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645).”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3337. Prohibiting Federal funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1440

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

The Federal Government pays a substantial amount of money to contractors for services to help agencies fulfill their missions. It is a privilege, not a right, to receive a contract, grant, loan, or other form of Federal financial assistance.

Unfortunately, there are individuals who take advantage of these resources and use it as an opportunity to defraud the government.

This bill closes a glaring loophole by prohibiting individuals that are convicted of certain felonies, primarily defrauding the Federal Government, from receiving Federal awards.

Under H.R. 6916, fraudsters will no longer be able to get rich from taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. This bill requires these individuals to be listed on the General Services Administra-

tion's System for Award Management Exclusion list, thus ensuring that Federal agencies know who these individuals are to ensure they, or any entity of which they have a controlling interest, are not awarded a contract or grant.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's sponsors, Congressman KEITH SELF and Congresswoman EMILY RANDALL, a colleague on the House Oversight Committee, for bringing this commonsense bill to the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary and bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

This bill would automatically ban individuals and companies convicted of defrauding the government from receiving Federal contracts, grants, and other Federal financial assistance for 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL)

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act, bipartisan legislation that I am proud to lead with Representative SELF.

This bill is rooted in a pretty basic idea: If someone is convicted of defrauding a Federal program, they should not be able to turn around and keep doing business with the Federal Government. This isn't about politics. It is about protecting taxpayer dollars and making sure that the Federal Government is worthy of the trust that the people place in it.

In every community we represent, people work hard, pay their taxes, and expect government programs to be run with honesty and accountability.

Each year, the Federal Government awards more than \$700 billion in contracts to various agencies. Taxpayers expect those dollars to support families, to strengthen communities, and to deliver the services Congress intended, not go back to people who have already been convicted of abusing public funds.

This issue was brought to us by the inspectors general, the public servants who spend every day rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government. They identified a real gap in the current system.

Too often, individuals convicted of fraud involving Federal programs remain eligible to apply for and receive Federal contracts. Under current law, agencies can suspend or debar these individuals, but the process can be slow, staff intensive, and inconsistent.

We have been told that preparing one single suspension or debarment package can take up to 20 hours.

For agencies already operating with limited staff and growing backlogs,

that means people who should be barred from Federal contracts can slip through the cracks. That is exactly the kind of problem Congress should be working together to fix.

According to a study by the inspectors general, of 550 felony fraud convictions involving pandemic-related Federal program funds over a 3-year period, more than 95 percent of those convicted were not suspended or debarred from doing business with the government. That is unacceptable.

Our bill creates a clear, common-sense standard: Individuals convicted of fraud involving Federal programs would be automatically ineligible for Federal contracts for at least 3 years. That means stronger accountability, more consistent enforcement, and more time for the inspectors general to focus on other cases of waste, fraud, and abuse.

The American people are owed more accountability and transparency into what taxpayer-funded contracts are being approved.

The Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act is a targeted, bipartisan solution to a documented problem. It protects taxpayers. It supports the work of the inspectors general, and it helps make sure Federal dollars go where they are supposed to go. I am grateful to the inspectors general who raised this issue and helped us develop this legislation, and I thank Representative SELF for his partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act of 2025.

The American people expect their hard-earned tax dollars to be used responsibly. They should never have to worry that individuals convicted of defrauding the Federal Government can turn around and receive additional Federal contracts, grants, or loans.

Unfortunately, we have seen too many examples of individuals exploiting Federal programs for personal gain. One repeat fraudster submitted at least 22 fraudulent pandemic loan applications and additional fraudulent unemployment benefit applications, resulting in more than \$250,000 in taxpayer losses. That is only one case.

It is common sense to expect that someone convicted of defrauding the government should not return and apply for more money. This bill closes that loophole.

H.R. 6916 requires individuals convicted of specific Federal fraud offenses involving Federal programs to be placed on the System for Award Management Exclusion list for 3 years. In simple terms: If someone is convicted of stealing from, lying to, or defrauding the Federal Government, they will

not be eligible to receive more Federal dollars.

This bill does not create new crimes. It does not expand Federal spending. It simply ensures that individuals convicted of serious fraud involving Federal programs are temporarily barred from receiving additional taxpayer funds.

At a time when Americans are demanding greater accountability from their government, Congress should send a clear message: Taxpayer dollars are not an entitlement in the face of fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Office of Inspector General and the professionals who worked with my team throughout the development of this legislation. Their work investigating fraud and protecting taxpayer dollars is indispensable.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Representative RANDALL for her partnership with this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6916.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsors of the bill mentioned, we have a responsibility to ensure that Federal funds are spent wisely and go to Americans who truly need them. I think it is pretty clear that if you commit fraud to steal from the Federal Government, you should not be rewarded with a Federal contract or grant.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's extensive investigations and hearings on fraud in Federal programs have made one thing clear: If fraudsters are successful, they will continue to find new ways to steal taxpayer dollars.

Such egregious actions require proactive fraud mitigation to prevent fraudsters and criminals from taking advantage of loopholes in our government and continuing to enrich themselves with taxpayer dollars.

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 Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6916, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit Federal Funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1450

ZEROING OUT MONETARY BENEFITS IMPROPERLY EXPENDED ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8467) to reform the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 to ensure executive agencies focus on fraud prevention, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8467

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 "Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act" or the "ZOMBIE Act".

SEC. 2. REFORMS TO PAYMENT INTEGRITY INFORMATION ACT OF 2019.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3351 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (1)—

(I) by inserting "information on" before "improper payments";

(II) by striking "information with" and inserting "resulting in financial loss to the Government in the accompanying materials to"; and

(III) by striking "and" at the end; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

"(iii) published information on improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government with the annual budget justification of the executive agency for the most recent fiscal year;"

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

(D) in subparagraph (A)(iv), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking "if required, has"; and

(ii) by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(E) in subparagraph (A)(v), as so redesignated, by striking "if required, publishes" and inserting "published";

(F) by striking subparagraph (B), as so redesignated; and

(G) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D), as so redesignated, as subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The term 'financial loss to the Government'—

"(A) means any payment or part of a payment made in excess of the correct amount authorized by law that results in a financial loss to the Federal Government; and

"(B) does not include any payment or part of a payment made to the correct person or entity for the correct amount authorized by law but not made in accordance with certain administrative procedures applicable to the executive agency (excluding any such procedure necessary to establish eligibility or to verify that any payment or part of a payment was made in such correct amount)."

(b) ESTIMATES OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND REPORTS ON ACTIONS TO REDUCE SUCH PAYMENTS.—Section 3352 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—