

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—

(1) in the heading—
 (A) by inserting “**resulting in financial loss to the Government**” before “**and reports**” (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections in chapter 33); and
 (B) by striking “**reduce improper payments**” and inserting “**reduce such payments**” (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections in chapter 33);
 (2) in subsection (a)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “periodically review all programs and activities” and inserting “submit annually a list of each program and activity required to be reported on the Program Inventory under section 1122”; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—
 (I) by striking “all programs and activities” and inserting “each program and activity from each such list”; and
 (II) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(2)”;
 (B) by striking paragraph (2);
 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and
 (D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—
 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “improper payments and payments whose propriety cannot be determined” and inserting “improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government and payments lacking sufficient documentation to determine whether the payments result in financial loss to the Government”;
 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;
 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:
 “(B) DEVELOPMENT OF RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall develop risk assessment guidance to assess the risk of improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government that addresses the following:
 “(i) The likelihood of payment errors and the magnitude of such errors that do not result in financial loss to the Government.
 “(ii) The likelihood of payment errors and the magnitude of such errors that do result in financial loss to the Government.
 “(iii) A formula for estimating financial loss to the Government.
 “(iv) Relevant governmentwide documents and best practices for managing improper payments and mitigating fraud risks in Federal programs, such as the document of the Government Accountability Office entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any successor document), as applicable and appropriate.
 “(C) SCOPE.—In preparing a list under paragraph (1)(A), the head of each executive agency shall require, within 6 months after issuing the risk assessment guidance, a risk assessment using the guidance developed under subparagraph (B) for each program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) for each—
 “(i) existing programs or activities prior to the next disbursement of Federal funds with respect to the program or activity; and
 “(ii) newly authorized programs and activities prior to any disbursement of Federal funds with respect to the program or activity.”;
 (iv) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—
 (I) in the heading, by striking “SCOPE” and inserting “REQUIREMENTS”;
 (II) in the matter preceding clause (i)—
 (aa) by striking “In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the head of each executive agency shall” and inserting “Risk as-

sessments are to be conducted on an ongoing basis, but no less frequently than once every 3 years, and”; and
 (bb) by inserting “, including with respect to fraud in any program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) that causes improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government” before “, such as”;
 (III) in clause (x), by striking “data systems” and inserting “data assets”; and
 (IV) in clause (xi)—
 (aa) by inserting “or improper payments” before “as assessed”; and
 (bb) by inserting “, or any successor document” after “commonly known as the ‘Green Book’”; and
 (v) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—
 (I) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL REPORT” and inserting “REPORTS”;
 (II) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Each executive agency shall publish an annual report” and inserting “Not less than once every 3 years, the head of each executive agency shall publish a report, which may be included in a report required under subsection (b)(2)(F) by such head with respect to a high-priority Federal program or activity.”;
 (III) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
 (IV) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
 (V) by adding at the end the following new clause:
 “(iii) a prioritized listing of risks identified in subparagraph (D) associated with each program and activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) and any corresponding financial and administrative control to mitigate any such risk, including the use of the Do Not Pay Initiative (or any successor system) and any other system or data asset maintained by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Inspector General of the executive agency to prevent fraud or improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government prior to making an eligibility determination to receive Federal funds with respect to any such program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A), issuing an award, or requesting a payment.”;
 (3) in subsection (b)—
 (A) in the heading, by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;
 (B) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A)—
 (I) by inserting “and activities” after “high-priority Federal programs”; and
 (II) by inserting “that result in financial loss” after “improper payments” each place it appears; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “associated” and inserting “and financial loss associated”; and
 (C) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in the heading, by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;
 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “shall on an annual basis” and inserting “, not less frequently than once every 3 years, shall”;
 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—
 (I) in clause (i)—
 (aa) in subclause (I)—
 (AA) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and
 (BB) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
 (bb) in subclause (II), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government, including by making it harder for fraudulent actors to exploit the program” after “improper payments”; and
 (cc) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) has taken or plans to take to reduce the percentage of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government.”;
 (II) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:
 “(i) shall include—
 “(I) an estimate of the total amount of the payments that result in financial loss to the Government;
 “(II) an estimate of the total amount of the payments that do not result in financial loss to the Government;
 “(III) the percentage of payments that result in financial loss to the Government;
 “(IV) an assessment of the portion of the total amount of payments that result in financial loss to the Government that are due to fraudulent actions by the recipient of such payments;
 “(V) the total amount of disbursed payments; and
 “(VI) a description of resources or legislative changes proposed to improve or maintain the integrity of the relevant program or activity; and”; and
 (III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii);
 (iv) in subparagraph (E)(i)—
 (I) in subclause (I)—
 (aa) by striking “improper payment” and inserting “improper payments that result in financial loss”; and
 (bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
 (II) in subclause (II), by striking “improper payments” and inserting “improper payments that result in financial loss”; and
 (III) by adding at the end the following new subclause:
 “(III) each statistically valid estimate developed under subsection (c)(1)(A) and make a recommendation to the head of the executive agency on whether the agency estimate should be reassessed and reestablished; and”;
 (v) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:
 “(F) AGENCY LIAISON DESIGNATION AND MANDATORY COORDINATION MEETINGS.—Not less frequently than once every fiscal year, the head of each executive agency with a high-priority Federal program or activity identified under paragraph (1)(B) shall designate a senior official of the executive agency to serve as the liaison of the executive agency for work under this subchapter who shall meet for a non-audit or investigative purpose with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or a designee of the Director), the Commissioner of the Bureau of the Fiscal Service of the Department of the Treasury (or a designee of the Commissioner), the Inspector General of the executive agency (or a designee of the Inspector General), and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee established under section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 533) (or any successor organization) to report on any action taken during the preceding fiscal year and any planned action, including any reform to any financial or administrative control, to prevent improper payments (with a focus on improper payments that lead to financial loss to the Government) and mitigate fraud in such program or activity.”; and
 (vi) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:
 “(G) FEDERAL-STATE COORDINATION MEETINGS.—Not less frequently than once every fiscal year, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury shall convene a meeting of State officials responsible for program and payment integrity in programs administered on behalf of the Federal Government by a State or local government to review fraud

prevention performance, share best practices, and identify ongoing coordination challenges.”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) develop a statistically valid estimate of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government;”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) include such estimate in the annual budget justification of the executive agency; and

“(C) revise such estimate if the head of the executive agency determines, which may be based on a recommendation from the Director in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Inspector General of the executive agency, that there is a need to reestablish the estimate of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government due to—

“(i) a significant change, as determined by the agency head, to the program or activity’s appropriation or authorization;

“(ii) newly establishing the program or activity; or

“(iii) a recommendation from the agency Inspector General in the annual compliance report issued under section 3353(a).”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “resulting in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “improper payments” before “estimate”;

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by striking “REDUCE” and inserting “REDUCE AND PREVENT”; and

(ii) by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “estimated improper payments”; and

(ii) by striking “reduce improper payments” and inserting “reduce and prevent such payments”;

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government (including actions used to commit fraud)” after “improper payments”;

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “in order to reduce improper payments”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) access to appropriate records and data assets, whether maintained by an executive agency, a State or local government, or a private sector organization;”;

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(F) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments” each place it appears; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon at the end;

(G) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) a description of how the level of planned or completed actions by the execu-

tive agency to address the causes of the improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government matched the level of improper payments that resulted in financial loss to the Government, including a breakdown by category of such improper payments and specific timelines for completion of those actions; and”;

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

“(7) information on the progress of the executive agency with respect to—

“(A) implementing the financial and administrative controls required to be established under subsection (a)(2)(E)(iii);

“(B) implementing relevant government-wide documents and best practices for managing improper payments and mitigating fraud risks in Federal programs, such as the document of the Government Accountability Office entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any successor document), as applicable and appropriate, including with respect to the identification of—

“(i) any dedicated entity that leads the fraud risk management activity of the executive agency;

“(ii) responsibilities of such entity, including any program or operation for which the entity is responsible;

“(iii) capacity, including any limitations, to strategically manage fraud risks;

“(iv) any program or operation within the executive agency for which there is not a dedicated entity that leads fraud risk management, along with a detailed justification for not having such a dedicated entity; and

“(v) the status of implementing the overarching concepts with associated leading practices identified in such document entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any such successor document), as applicable and appropriate;

“(C) implementing the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123, or any successor policy, with respect to leading practices for managing fraud and improper payments risk;

“(D) identifying fraud risks and vulnerabilities, including but not limited to payroll, beneficiary payments, grants, large contracts, and purchase and travel cards; and

“(E) establishing strategies, procedures, and other steps to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud.”;

(6) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government,” after “With respect to improper payments”; and

(ii) by striking “the improper payments” and inserting “such payments”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government,” after “improper payments”;

(7) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “regarding improper payments”; and

(II) by inserting “such” after “recover”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “Government” before “Reform”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) the Committee on the Budget of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (G); and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”;

(8) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and periodically thereafter,” after “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “pre-award and postpayment” and inserting “pre-award, pre-payment, and post-payment”; and

(9) in subsection (i)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “25” and inserting “10”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “25” and inserting “75”.

SEC. 3. REFORMS TO ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT BY INSPECTORS GENERAL OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.

(a) OMB GUIDANCE.—Section 3353(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “date of enactment of this section” and inserting “date of the enactment of the amendments made to this section by the ‘Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act’ or the ‘ZOMBIE Act’”; and

(B) by striking “shall develop and promulgate guidance” and inserting “shall revise existing guidance issued under this section”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “improper payment estimates methodology” and inserting “estimation methodologies”; and

(B) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

(5) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) by striking “Inspectors General include” and inserting “Inspectors General shall include”; and

(B) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”.

(b) CIGIE GUIDANCE.—Section 3353(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “date of enactment of this section” and inserting “date of the enactment of the amendments made to this section by the ‘Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act’ or the ‘ZOMBIE Act’”; and

(B) by striking “develop and promulgate guidance” and inserting “revise existing guidance issued under this section”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking “section 3351(2)(B)” and inserting “section 3351(2)(A)(iv)”; and

(ii) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments” each place it appears;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “section 3351(2)(C)” and inserting “section 3351(2)(A)(v)”;

(C) by striking clause (iii);

(D) by redesignating clauses (iv) through (vi) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively;

(E) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

(F) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”.

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 myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act.

This bill strengthens agency efforts to prevent improper payments that lead to financial loss to the government. Estimates made by the Government Accountability Office reveal that the Federal Government has lost \$2.8 trillion to improper payments since 2003.

In fiscal year 2025, Federal agencies reported \$186 billion in improper payments, an increase of about \$24 billion from the previous year alone. These heinous findings prove that the status quo is not working and is unacceptable.

This bill replaces the current broken practice of conducting backward-looking annual improper payment estimates that remain unchanged year to year. Instead, it directs agencies to focus more closely on payments that result in financial loss to the government and cost savings associated with anti-fraud activity.

This bill requires agencies to comprehensively assess fraud risk management practices in their programs, such as the implementation of the Government Accountability Office’s fraud risk management framework and to develop fraud risk indicators and apply key fraud risk controls and procedures.

The bill also increases much-needed regular coordination and information-sharing among government stakeholders responsible for identifying and preventing improper payments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Oversight Committee colleague, Congressman GARY PALMER, for leading on these im-

portant and long-overdue improper payment reforms. I encourage my colleagues to support this 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. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act.

The bill is simple. It would require the Treasury to develop risk assessment guidance for improper payments. It also requires Federal agencies to conduct a risk assessment and publish a prioritized list of programs at risk for fraud.

Federal agencies with the highest risk of fraud and improper payments would be required to report on the steps they are taking to resolve those risks. These are commonsense measures to help prevent improper payments and promote accountability within Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, every year, hardworking Americans dutifully pay their taxes to support Federal public programs and other priorities. Unfortunately, the Federal Government has too often squandered their money through mismanagement.

For example, just last year, the Federal Government lost an estimated \$186 billion in improper payments. Six years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic produced what is now often referred to as the greatest theft of taxpayer dollars in history.

This is not new. The Federal Government has been on this track for over 23 years, losing almost \$3 trillion in taxpayer dollars since that time.

The definition of insanity is continuing to take the same actions and expecting a different result. It is time for us to make changes. Absent major systematic reforms, we will continue to violate the public trust at increasingly unsustainable levels.

That is why I am pleased to sponsor H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act, or the ZOMBIE Act.

The ZOMBIE Act reforms Federal law to prevent improper payments before money goes out the door. It codifies a longtime recommendation from the Government Accountability Office to conduct regular risk assessments of improper payments that result in actual financial loss to the Federal Government. Assessments will focus on a comprehensive review of risk, including implementing fraud prevention best practices.

The bill increases coordination among the inspectors general, the U.S. Treasury, and other partners via annual meetings. Heads of Federal agencies or designees of their choice will

have the option to attend these meetings to help identify and prevent improper payments that result in financial loss for the government.

Additionally, the ZOMBIE Act incentivizes Federal agency reporting by permitting up to 75 percent of the amount recovered to be redirected back to the program. That is an increase from the current 25 percent threshold.

By implementing the ZOMBIE Act, agencies will be able to shift or focus toward preventing improper payments rather than on compliance activities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleagues for supporting this bill and urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the bill. I commend him on his creativity with acronyms of bill names, and I urge everyone to support the ZOMBIE Act. It is very much alive. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act, which reforms the Payment Integrity Information Act to refocus Federal agencies on proactively identifying and preventing improper payments before they happen, rather than wasting resources on backward-looking compliance activities.

Mr. Speaker, we need reforms like this bill that force agencies to focus on preventing improper payments in the first place, and this smart legislation does just that.

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. 8467, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

TAXPAYER RESOURCES USED IN EMERGENCIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8466) to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.