

only in Washington. They depend on State and local partners who are often on the front lines and don't have any skin in game. If we want to protect taxpayer dollars, those partners need access to the same knowledge and best practices the Federal Government has.

Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that cannot help a veteran, a senior, a small business, a family in need, a community that depends on Federal assistance, or pay down our ridiculous Federal debt. It is also a dollar added to the debt and a dollar taken from hardworking Americans who expect better from their government.

We should not wait until fraud has already occurred to ask what went wrong. We should train the Federal workforce to identify warning signs early, use the tools already available, and stop fraud before taxpayer dollars are wasted.

I thank Congressman KRISHNAMOORTHY for leading the bipartisan effort with me. I also thank Chairman COMER for his leadership on the Oversight Committee and his work to hold the Federal Government accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Preventing improper payments and fraud starts with a well-trained workforce. I thank my colleagues for their work on this important legislation.

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

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

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8428, the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act.

In order to meaningfully address the massive scale of fraud in Federal programs, we need to implement a standardized, government-wide training program for employees administering agency programs.

H.R. 8428 helps establish leading fraud prevention training practices throughout the Federal Government so we can recognize 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. 8428, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

BONUSES FOR COST-CUTTERS AND FRAUD PREVENTERS ACT OF 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 428) to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 428

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 "Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. COST SAVINGS ENHANCEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4511 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "Definition" and inserting "Definitions"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by striking "this subchapter, the term" and inserting the following: "this subchapter—

"(1) the term"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) the terms 'improper payment' and 'payment' have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3351 of title 31; and

"(3) the term 'wasteful expenses' means amounts made available for salaries and expenses accounts, operations and maintenance accounts, or other equivalent accounts—

"(A) that are identified by an employee of the agency under section 4512(a) as wasteful; and

"(B) that the Chief Financial Officer of the agency determines are not required for the purpose for which the amounts were made available."

(b) AUTHORITY.—Section 4512 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting "and improper payment" before "disclosures";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The head of an agency may pay a cash award to any employee of such agency whose identification of wasteful expenses to the Chief Financial Officer of such agency, through a process determined by the head of such agency, has resulted in cost savings for the agency or prevented a payment that, if made, would be an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government.";

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking "\$10,000" and inserting "\$20,000";

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "or prevented improper payments" after "cost savings";

(ii) by inserting "Chief Financial Officer," after "Inspector General,";

(iii) by striking "subsection (b)" and inserting "subsection (b) or (c), as applicable"; and

(iv) by inserting "or identification" after "disclosure"; and

(D) in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "Chief Financial Officer," after "Inspector General";

(ii) by inserting "or prevented improper payments" after "cost savings"; and

(iii) by inserting "or identification" after "disclosure"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency determines that potential wasteful

expenses identified by an employee meet the requirements of section 4511(a)(3)(B), the head of such agency shall notify the President.

"(2) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency determines that a payment identified by an employee would, if made, be an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government, the head of such agency shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury of such payment for purposes of preventing similar improper payments.

"(3) In the case of an agency for which there is no Chief Financial Officer, the head of the agency shall designate an agency employee who shall have the authority to make the determinations for identification of wasteful expenses or prevented improper payments under this section.

"(d) The head of each agency shall make available, along with, and in the same manner and form as, the provision of information required under section 1116 of title 31, information on disclosures of wasteful expenses or prevented improper payments pursuant to which an award was made under this section, including—

"(1) a description of each disclosure of possible wasteful expenses or improper payments identified by an employee and determined by the agency to have merit; and

"(2) the number and amount of cash awards provided by the agency under subsection (a).

"(e) An individual may not receive a cash award under this subchapter if the individual is—

"(1) an officer or employee of the Office of the Inspector General of an agency; or

"(2) ineligible for a cash award under section 4509.

"(f) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall—

"(1) ensure that the cash award program of each agency under this section complies with this section; and

"(2) submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an annual certification indicating whether the cash award program of each agency under this section complies with this section.

"(g) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026, and every 2 years thereafter for 4 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the operation of the cost savings and awards program under this section, including any recommendations for legislative changes."

(c) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on implementing the amendments made by this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include in the guidance required by paragraph (1) the following:

(A) Guidelines for employees of Federal agencies to identify and report within the agency of such employee a wasteful expense or improper payment.

(B) Guidelines for Federal agencies to make a determination as to whether an identification of a wasteful expense or improper payment is appropriate.

(C) Guidelines for determining an appropriate cash award for an employee of a Federal agency who identifies and reports a wasteful expense or improper payment, including any considerations for such employee's grade, locality pay, and other considerations that may factor into the aggregate compensation limit applicable to such employee in a given calendar year.

(D) Procedures for reporting actions taken under the amendments made by this Act to the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management, as appropriate.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 4511 and inserting the following:

“4511. Definitions and general provisions.”; and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 4512 and inserting the following:

“4512. Agency awards for cost savings and improper payment disclosures.”.

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. 428, the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026.

This bill expands existing incentives for Federal employees to identify and disclose waste and abuse before American tax dollars are spent.

Without incentives to disclose wasteful spending, Federal employees who are most likely to identify and halt such spending may not speak up.

It was because of instances like these that in 1981 Congress created a cash awards program to encourage employees to take proactive action to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. This program was so successful that it was made permanent just over a decade later.

Over the years, these authorities have resulted in creative ideas coming from agency employees themselves, contributing to the saving of millions in taxpayer dollars. These cost-cutting ideas included allowing veterans to use otherwise safe, discarded medicine and

eliminating wasteful printing of the Federal Register.

It is time that Congress does more to expand the cost-saving potential of Federal employees by expanding these authorities.

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H.R. 428, as amended, increases incentives for Federal employees by allowing cash awards for reporting wasteful spending and improper payments before funds go out the door.

The best way to recover misspent tax dollars is to not misspend them in the first place. I support this important legislation, which helps preserve Congress' constitutional role in the appropriations process and helps reduce wasteful spending.

I thank Congressman CHUCK FLEISCHMANN for bringing this creative solution to preventing fraud to the Oversight Committee and for working with the committee to expand it to address improper payments.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisanship bill.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 428, as well, the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act 2026. This bipartisan bill would increase the maximum cash bonus awarded to Federal employees who report waste, fraud, and abuse, from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Increasing this award will encourage more Federal workers to come forward and report on waste and improper spending. It will reward employees for acting in the best interest of American taxpayers.

The bill also requires agencies to report on the wasteful and improper spending reported by employees, promoting transparency.

I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill.

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

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. Let me begin by stating a straightforward fact: The Federal Government spends excessively, and much of these funds are wasted. The Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026 offers a practical solution to ensure that taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are wisely managed and efficiently.

This legislation takes our existing Federal rewards program, a program that already rewards employees who identify fraud, waste, and mismanagement, and expands it. Under this legislation, any Federal employee who identifies wasteful operational expenses that an agency itself determines are not required for its stated purpose can bring that information forward. The agency will then be required to propose those funds for rescission. On top of that, we double the maximum cash

award available to employees who identify wasteful spending.

Federal employees are often the first to recognize when funds are allocated to outdated programs or when bureaucratic practices prioritize institutional interests over those of taxpayers. For too long, there has been no incentive to speak up, and in some cases real disincentives have existed. This bill addresses that issue.

Tennessee's Third District, my district, is home to thousands of dedicated Federal employees at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and other Federal sites throughout our region.

These hard-working public servants take their responsibility to taxpayers seriously. H.R. 428 honors their commitment by giving them a meaningful role in eliminating waste and rewarding them for delivering results to the people who fund our government.

We are taking these steps at a critical moment. The American people have given us a clear mandate to rein in spending. This administration is actively working to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government.

The efforts by the Department of Government Efficiency reflect the same mandate, and H.R. 428 supports that mission by establishing a permanent statutory framework that will endure beyond any one administration.

It is also important to emphasize that this is not a partisan bill. Taxpayers in Tennessee, and across the Nation, regardless of party, do not want their money wasted. They expect a government that is accountable, efficient, and worthy of their trust.

I have worked on this legislation for years, and I am proud that the Oversight Committee has advanced it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, this is a commonsense, fiscally responsible, pro-taxpayer bill. I urge everyone to support it.

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

Increasing the bonus for identifying waste, fraud, and abuse will save taxpayer dollars, make government more efficient, reward honest workers, and increase accountability.

I thank my colleagues again for this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 428, Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026, which establishes additional incentives for Federal employees to identify wasteful expenses or improper payments.

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. 428, 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 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving and improper payment disclosures, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AGENCIES CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6028) to modify the appointment and removal process for certain legislative branch officers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6028

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 "Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act".

SEC. 2. LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–86; 129 Stat. 675), is amended—

- (1) by redesignating section 3 as section 5;
- (2) by redesignating section 2 as section 3;

(3) by inserting after section 1 the following:

"SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

"In this Act:

"(1) COMMISSION.—The term 'commission' means a congressional commission consisting of the oversight committee leadership and the House and Senate leadership.

"(2) DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—The term 'Deputy Librarian' means the Deputy Librarian of Congress.

"(3) HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP.—The term 'House and Senate leadership' means the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate.

"(4) LIBRARIAN.—The term 'Librarian' means the Librarian of Congress.

"(5) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.—The term 'oversight committee leadership' means the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.";

(4) in section 3, as so redesignated—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) APPOINTMENT.—

"(1) COMMISSION.—The Librarian shall be appointed by the commission in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (2), without regard to political affiliation, and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office.

"(2) APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES.—

"(A) RECOMMENDATION OF 3 INDIVIDUALS.—If there is a vacancy in the position of Librarian, the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend 3 individuals for appointment to the vacant office.

"(B) SELECTION BY LEADERS.—The Librarian shall be appointed from among the 3 individuals recommended under subparagraph (A) upon a

majority vote of the House and Senate leadership.";

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "of Congress";

(C) in subsection (c), by striking "of Congress, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,"; and

(D) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) REMOVAL.—The Librarian may be removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership."

(b) PAY.—Section 904 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1983 (2 U.S.C. 136a–2) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "Notwithstanding"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) The Librarian of Congress shall not be considered to serve under a political appointment for purposes of section 747 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–47; 138 Stat. 585), or any other subsequently enacted similar provision of law."

SEC. 3. DEPUTY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

The Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–86; 129 Stat. 675), is amended by inserting after section 3, as so redesignated, the following:

"SEC. 4. DEPUTY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian shall appoint a suitable individual to be the Deputy Librarian of Congress.

"(2) DUTIES.—The Librarian may delegate to the Deputy Librarian such duties as the Librarian determines are necessary or appropriate.

"(b) DEADLINE.—The Librarian shall appoint a Deputy Librarian under subsection (a)(1) not later than 120 days after—

"(1) the date on which the Librarian is appointed under section 3, if there is no Deputy Librarian on the date of the appointment; or

"(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the office of the Deputy Librarian.

"(c) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Librarian does not appoint a Deputy Librarian on or before the applicable date specified in subsection (b)—

"(1) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual for appointment to the vacant office; and

"(2) upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under paragraph (1) shall be appointed as the Deputy Librarian.

"(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the position of Deputy Librarian becomes vacant, the Librarian shall immediately notify the members of the commission.

"(e) SERVICE AS ACTING LIBRARIAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Librarian shall act as Librarian if the Librarian is absent or disabled or there is no Librarian.

"(2) ABSENCE, DISABILITY, OR VACANCY IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), if the Deputy Librarian is also absent or disabled or there is no Deputy Librarian—

"(i) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual to be designated to serve as acting Librarian; and

"(ii) upon a majority vote of the members of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under clause (i) shall be designated to serve as acting Librarian.

"(B) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—An individual designated as acting Librarian under subparagraph (A) may serve until—

"(i) the end of the absence or disability of the Librarian or the Deputy Librarian; or

"(ii) in the case of vacancies in both positions, a Librarian has been appointed under section 3.

"(3) AUTHORITY.—An officer serving as acting Librarian under paragraph (1) or (2) shall perform all the duties and exercise all the authori-

ties of the Librarian, including the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the Librarian."

SEC. 4. DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 301 the following:

"§ 300. Definitions

"In this chapter—

"(1) the term 'commission' means a congressional commission consisting of the oversight committee leadership and the House and Senate leadership;

"(2) the term 'House and Senate leadership' means the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate; and

"(3) the term 'oversight committee leadership' means the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.";

(2) in section 301—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a)(1) The Government Publishing Office shall be headed by a Director.

"(2)(A) The Director shall be appointed by the commission in accordance with the procedures specified in subparagraph (B), without regard to political affiliation, and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office.

"(B)(i) If there is a vacancy in the position of Director, the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend 3 individuals for appointment to the vacant office.

"(ii) The Director shall be appointed from among the 3 individuals recommended under clause (i), upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership.";

(B) in subsection (c), by striking "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) The Director may be removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of the members of the House and Senate leadership."

(b) PAY.—Section 303 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The annual rate of pay for the Director of the Government Publishing Office"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall not be considered to serve under a political appointment for purposes of section 747 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–47; 138 Stat. 585), or any other subsequently enacted similar provision of law."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 301 the following:

"300. Definitions."

"301. Director of the Government Publishing Office."

"302. Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office: appointment; duties."

SEC. 5. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 302. Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office: appointment; duties

"(a) In this section—

"(1) the term 'Deputy Director' means the Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office; and

"(2) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

"(b)(1) The Director shall appoint a suitable person to be the Deputy Director.