

Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, Border Patrol has released zero illegal aliens this year, using current laws, not needing immigration reform.

Yesterday, in the South Carolina Republican primary, I am grateful that my son, Alan Wilson, the longest serving attorney general in America, achieved the runoff on June 23 to serve the people of South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as Donald Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, as war criminal Putin provides targeting information to Iran to murder Americans.

South Carolina mourns the passing yesterday of Butch Wallace, who will always be cherished as a civic leader and an American patriot.

#### RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH AND RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS

(Mr. MIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pride Month and to honor Radiant Health Centers, an Irvine-based nonprofit that has been serving Orange County's LGBTQ+ communities, underserved residents, and people living with or affected by HIV for nearly four decades.

Founded in 1985 as AIDS Services Foundation Orange County, Radiant began as a volunteer-led response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, providing dignity and support at a time when too many people were being denied the care they deserved.

Today, Radiant is the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit HIV service provider in Orange County, touching thousands of lives.

Radiant began as an act of courage. The founding volunteers stood up for the most vulnerable amid devastating stigmatization, which saved lives.

This Pride Month, I hope their courage will inspire us all. Amid rising hate and discrimination, let us recommit ourselves to defending dignity and equality for all. I am proud to recognize Radiant Health Centers for their lifesaving work and their deep commitment to the people of Orange County.

#### RECOGNIZING PATRIOT INDUSTRIES

(Mr. MCGUIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGUIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patriot Industries of Louisa County, Virginia, for being named the Small Business Administration's Virginia Manufacturer of the Year.

Founded in 2010 by Tom and Sarah Click in a modest 1,000-square-foot facility, Patriot Industries has grown

into a leading manufacturer of electrical infrastructure products, operating three U.S.-based facilities and employing nearly 100 Americans.

Their conduit, fittings, and other critical components help support construction, energy systems, and infrastructure projects across the country.

Through continuous investment in manufacturing, innovation, and workforce development, Patriot has strengthened domestic supply chains while creating jobs in Virginia.

I congratulate Tom, Sarah, and the entire Patriot team on this well-deserved recognition and thank them for representing the very best of American manufacturing.

#### PRIORITIES

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, UFOs; the Gulf of America; water pressure in your shower; shrimp farms; pardoning insurrectionist rioters and providing a way for them to be paid for their behavior; the blue water color of the reflecting pool on The Mall; and building an MMA stadium on the lawn of the White House and a big, beautiful ballroom, too, that America doesn't need—these aren't topics of bizarre nightmares. They are some of the things that the White House and the congressional majority have prioritized in the last 18 months.

What should we be doing? We should be ending a war of choice that triggered skyrocketing gas prices and eliminating unnecessary tariffs that increased the costs of groceries and consumer products.

This morning, the news told us that inflation rose to 4.2 percent, the highest level in 3 years, way more important than the name on The Kennedy Center or building a triumphal arch.

This Congress is the least productive Congress ever, having passed an anemic number of laws—mostly messaging bills to rally the majority's MAGA base.

For those who are feeling the unbearable pressure on their paychecks because of rising costs on everyday necessities, help is on the way in 146 days, just less than 21 weeks.

□ 1210

#### DISASTER RECOVERY GAPS

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all of those impacted by last year's devastating tornado. People deserve a recovery process that is prompt, transparent, and responsive to their community's actual needs.

However, time and time again, President Trump and his administration

have failed to meet those needs. Sadly, those impacted by last year's tornado have joined a long line of communities around the country pleading with this administration to do its fair share in their recovery process.

This is unacceptable, which is why yesterday I introduced my CDBG-DR AAA legislation, the first in a series of bills to reform and overhaul the disaster relief system in this country.

This bill helps ensure recovery gaps are identified early and continuously assessed after a major disaster declaration is declared by the President. This will help communities access the resources needed to rebuild stronger and faster.

We can and we must do better for those who need us most, and I remain committed to fighting on their behalf in Congress.

#### FRAUD PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1345, I call up the bill (H.R. 8312) to establish fraud prevention and program integrity functions within the Department of Treasury and a permanent governmentwide Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1345, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8312

*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 "Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act".*

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAUD PREVENTION AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 306 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

#### "§ 306. Fiscal Service

"(a) *The Bureau of the Fiscal Service is a service in the Department of the Treasury.*

"(b) *The head of the Bureau of the Fiscal Service is the Fiscal Assistant Secretary appointed under section 301(d).*

"(c) *The Bureau of the Fiscal Service, having as its head a Commissioner, shall maintain the following functions related to financial integrity, spending transparency, and preventing improper payments resulting in financial loss to the government, and does not include any investigative or law enforcement function, which, in addition to any other duty the Secretary of the Treasury assigns—*

"(1) *shall administer and operate the Do Not Pay system required under section 3354 in a manner that ensures that any data provided to the Secretary is used only for the purposes set*

forth under section 3354 in accordance with applicable law; and

“(2) shall, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, establish and maintain a voluntary governmentwide data analysis program in accordance with applicable law and using the authorities under section 6(c)(1) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (Public Law 109–282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note)—

“(A) to provide data sharing and analysis services to Federal agencies and any State (meaning a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a federally recognized Indian Tribe) and local government responsible for the administration of a federally funded program or the disbursement of Federal funds, to detect fraud and prevent improper payments resulting in a financial loss to the government, but for no other purpose including any policy analysis and enforcement action purpose, and, including by facilitating the following services upon request and on a voluntary basis in accordance with all applicable privacy and security laws:

“(i) Federal agency or State and local government data sharing of known fraudulent entities and transactions resulting from final adverse action determinations, payment denials, referrals for criminal investigation, or equivalent findings with the Department of the Treasury.

“(ii) Screening awardees and payees against the centralized fraud database prior to award or payment issuance, as feasible and in accordance with individual program requirements.

“(iii) Screening relevant cyber activity against the centralized fraud database to review recipient or payee changes to virtual identity or payment information.

“(iv) Establishing governmentwide standards for the collection, labeling, and sharing of data related to improper payments, to include fraudulent payments, with the Department of the Treasury.

“(v) Partnering with financial institutions and industry to share best practices and, as appropriate, information on known fraud patterns and results of investigations into fraudulent activity.

“(vi) Providing identity, eligibility, account, and vital event verification and validation tools and analytical services to agencies, as necessary and appropriate; and

“(B) that is capable of receiving (including in bulk data formats and through systems that facilitate real-time data access) any data asset, information, or record related to the administration of Federal programs (including federally funded State-administered programs) and disbursement of Federal funds under such programs, provided to the Secretary for secure and confidential use by the center or the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability and Recovery (in accordance with any terms included in a written data sharing agreement between the Secretary and the Inspector General) to recognize and address patterns of fraudulent actors, information, and claims across such programs; and

“(3) shall provide the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, access to such information technology, data assets, information, and records to support the functions and services of the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery established under section 317 in accordance with applicable law.

“(d) The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall not later than 2 years after the establishment of this section, and on an annual basis thereafter, 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, which may be included as part of another report submitted to Congress by the Secretary, on the im-

plementation of the Program, including participation rates and an assessment of the Program's effectiveness in reducing fraud and preventing improper payments resulting in a financial loss to the government.

“(e) The Secretary of the Treasury may designate another officer or employee of the Department to act as the Fiscal Assistant Secretary when the Fiscal Assistant Secretary is absent or unable to serve or when the office of Fiscal Assistant Secretary is vacant.”.

(b) COORDINATION IN DESIGNATING DO NOT PAY DATABASES.—Section 3354(b)(1)(B) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury” before “in consultation”.

(c) AMENDMENT TO DATA ACT OF 2014 DATA ANALYSIS CENTER AUTHORIZATION.—Section 6(c)(1) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR FRAUD, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RECOVERY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTOR FOR FRAUD, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RECOVERY.—Subchapter I of chapter 3 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§317. Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery within the Department of the Treasury

“(a) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of the Treasury, the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery.

“(b) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL; REMOVAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office shall be the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) NOMINATION.—The nomination of the Inspector General shall be made without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

“(3) REMOVAL.—The Inspector General shall be removable from office in accordance with the provisions of section 403(b) of title 5.

“(4) POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—For purposes of section 7324 of title 5, the Inspector General shall not be considered an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal law.

“(5) BASIC PAY.—The annual rate of basic pay of the Inspector General shall be the annual rate of basic pay for an Inspector General under section 403(e) of title 5.

“(6) LEGAL COUNSEL.—The Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing the civil service, obtain legal advice from a counsel either reporting directly to the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery or another inspector general within the executive branch.

“(c) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the Inspector General, in accordance with section 404(b)(1) of title 5, to conduct, supervise, or coordinate oversight activities, including audits and investigations of the use of and the provision or award of covered funds, and the management by agency heads of any program established by the use of covered funds, with such related activities of the Inspector General to be considered civil or criminal law enforcement activities, including by—

“(A) providing support to agency Inspectors General, if requested by the agency Inspector General, in the oversight of covered funds in order to—

“(i) detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement;

“(ii) identify major risks that cut across programs and agency boundaries; and

“(iii) identify and promote best practices and tools to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud across covered funds; and

“(B) coordinating with relevant agency Inspectors General, the Department of Justice, and, as appropriate, the Fiscal Service to—

“(i) provide support in conducting investigations, audits, and reviews relating to covered funds, including through—

“(I) the establishment or use of an independent data analytics platform, which shall incorporate to the extent practicable and feasible the data analytic platform maintained by the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee prior to the enactment of this section;

“(II) the sharing of data, tools, and services;

“(III) the development and enhancement of data practices, analysis, and visualization; and

“(IV) any other appropriate means as determined by the Inspector General in coordination with relevant Inspectors General from any agency that expends or obligates covered funds;

“(ii) provide analytical products to agencies to promote program integrity, prevent improper payments, facilitate verification efforts to ensure proper expenditure and utilization of covered funds, and assist with civil and criminal investigations or litigation relating to fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of covered funds;

“(iii) review the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of, and the detection of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in, programs and operations using covered funds;

“(iv) as appropriate and practicable, identify data assets and information records collected, produced, and maintained by the Office that can be securely provided through data sharing agreements, including in bulk data formats and through systems that facilitate real-time data access, with the Secretary of the Treasury to support the functions and activities of the Fiscal Service and civil and criminal investigations or litigation relating to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of covered funds; and

“(v) expeditiously report to the Attorney General any instance in which the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law;

“(C) establish an advisory committee composed of other Inspectors General, with at least three representing an agency specified under section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code, and three from another agency, in accordance with the following:

“(i) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.—The advisory committee may identify and prioritize cross-agency fraud risks and activities to prevent, detect, and otherwise mitigate such risks, including by reviewing—

“(I) the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of, and the detection of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in, programs and operations using covered funds; and

“(II) whether there are appropriate mechanisms for interagency collaboration relating to the oversight of covered funds, including coordinating and collaborating to the extent practicable with State and local government entities.

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The advisory committee may, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make recommendations to agencies on measures to prevent or address fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and to mitigate major risks that cut across programs and agency boundaries, relating to covered funds.

“(iii) PREVENTING DUPLICATION IN OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS.—With a view to preventing duplication in government functions and provide for ongoing coordination of resources to prevent

fraud and improper payments in Federal programs and spending the advisory committee may—

“(I) provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury to assist the Secretary in making recommendations under section 321(a)(11) of title 31; and

“(II) provide any such additional recommendations in a timely manner to the appropriate congressional committees as the advisory committee determines necessary and to ensure that the definition of ‘covered funds’ established under section 317(l) of title 31 is legislatively expanded, as necessary;

“(D) the Inspector General may provide investigative support to prosecutive and enforcement authorities to protect program integrity and prevent, detect, and prosecute fraud of covered funds; and

“(E) coordinating the oversight and investigative activities with the Comptroller General of the United States, State and local government Inspectors General, and State and local auditors, as appropriate.

“(2) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEMS.—The Inspector General shall establish, maintain, and oversee such systems, procedures, and controls as the Inspector General considers appropriate to discharge the duties of the Inspector General under paragraph (1).

“(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DATA ANALYTICS SUPPORT.—In addition to the duties of the Inspector General with respect to covered funds, for any Inspector General enumerated under section 424(b)(1) of title 5, the Inspector General may provide technical assistance to support independent oversight activities on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis provided that appropriate data privacy and security protection provisions are provided for in agreements to provide such technical assistance. Such technical assistance may include, but not be limited to the following:

“(A) Sharing data available to the Inspector General, as appropriate under a data sharing agreement.

“(B) Sharing and providing data analytics services.

“(C) Supporting the development of data analytics tools and capabilities.

“(D) Sharing of data analysis best practices.

“(4) ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the duties described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the duties and responsibilities of inspectors general under subsections (b) through (e) of section 404 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the Inspector General. However, such duties and responsibilities shall extend beyond the Department of the Treasury notwithstanding any reference to the establishment in such section.

“(d) POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the provisions of this section, the Inspector General shall have the authorities provided under section 406 of title 5, United States Code, except that the references to the establishment in section 406 of such title are not limited to the Department of the Treasury, and references to ‘this chapter’ in section 406 of such title shall include this section.

“(2) TREATMENT OF OFFICE.—The Office shall be considered to be an office described in section 406(f)(3) of title 5 and shall be exempt from an initial determination by the Attorney General under subsection (f)(2) of such section.

“(3) TREATMENT OF RECORDS.—In carrying out the duties and functions under this subsection with respect to the oversight of covered funds, the Office shall—

“(A) be considered to be conducting civil or criminal law enforcement activity for the purposes of section 552a(b)(7) of title 5; and

“(B) for the purposes of sections 552 and 552a of title 5, be considered to be a component which performs as its principal function an activity pertaining to the enforcement of criminal laws, and its records may constitute investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes.

“(e) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding section 406(a)(7) of title 5, the Inspector General may exercise the authorities of subsections (b) through (i) of section 3161 of title 5 (without regard to subsections (a) or (b)(2) of that section) as if the Office of the Inspector General were a temporary organization, as defined in such section, to appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the duties of the Inspector General and to otherwise carry out the functions of the Office of the Inspector General under this section, including appointing an Assistant Inspector General for Investigations.

“(2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—Upon the request of an Inspector General of an Office established under chapter 4 of title 5, the Inspector General may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any personnel of the Office to that Inspector General to assist in carrying out any audit, review, or investigation pertaining to the oversight of covered funds.

“(3) ANNUITANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office may employ an annuitant receiving an annuity from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund for purposes of the oversight of covered funds.

“(B) TREATMENT OF ANNUITANTS.—The employment of annuitants under this paragraph shall be subject to the provisions of section 9902(g) of title 5, as if the Office were the Department of Defense.

“(4) CONTRACTS.—The Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, and make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Office.

“(f) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of the Inspector General for information or assistance from any department, agency, or other entity of the Federal Government, the head of that department, agency, or entity shall, to the extent practicable and not in contravention of any existing law, furnish that information or assistance to the Office, or an authorized designee.

“(2) REFUSAL TO PROVIDE REQUESTED INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE.—Whenever information or assistance requested by the Inspector General is, in the judgment of the Inspector General, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Inspector General shall immediately report the circumstances to the appropriate congressional committees.

“(g) REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a Inspector General is confirmed, and once every year thereafter until the Inspector General is no longer serving in such position, the Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report summarizing the activities of the Inspector General.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall include—

“(I) for the period covered by the report, a detailed statement the activities conducted by the Inspector General, including estimates of fraudulent payments the Office helped prevent and assisted in recovering or prosecuting; and

“(II) policy and legislative recommendations to improve governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention and payment and program integrity improvements; and

“(ii) may include a classified annex.

“(2) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

“(A) MANAGEMENT ALERTS.—The Inspector General shall submit to the President and Congress, including the appropriate congressional committees, such periodic reports as may be necessary to notify the President and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress of any potential program management,

risk, or funding accountability, or payment integrity problems related to the use and provision or awarding of covered funds that require immediate attention by Federal agencies or Congress.

“(B) UPDATE REPORTS.—The Inspector General shall submit to Congress such other reports or provide such periodic updates on the work of the Office as the Inspector General considers appropriate on the use of covered funds including any recommended changes to the scope of covered funds under subsection (1)(2).

“(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Inspector General shall publish on the website established under subsection (k) all reports submitted under this subsection.

“(4) REDACTIONS.—Any portion of a report submitted under this subsection may be redacted when made publicly available, if that portion would disclose information that is not subject to disclosure under sections 552 and 552a of this title, or is otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law.

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is—

“(A) specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law;

“(B) specifically required by Executive order to be protected from disclosure in the interest of national defense or national security or in the conduct of foreign affairs; or

“(C) a part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

“(h) FUNDING, TRANSFER OF FUNDS, ASSETS, AND OBLIGATIONS.—

“(1) FUNDING.—Beginning in fiscal year 2035, and annually thereafter, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to the Office to carry out the duties and functions of this section.

“(2) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Office may transfer funds appropriated to the Office for expenses to support administrative support services and audits, reviews, or other activities related to oversight of covered funds to any Inspector General Office and the Department of the Treasury.

“(3) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND OBLIGATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the effective date of this section, the assets and obligations held by or available in connection with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee established under section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 533) shall be transferred to the Office. Upon the effective date of this section the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee may undertake all activities to enable such transfer of assets.

“(B) ASSETS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘assets’ includes contracts, agreements (including data use agreements and memoranda of understanding), facilities, property, data, records, unobligated or unexpended balances of appropriations, personnel identified by the Chairperson and Executive Director of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee pursuant to section 317(e)(1) of title 31, and other funds or resources.

“(C) USE OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Any unobligated and unexpended balances of appropriations and funds transferred pursuant to subparagraph (B) may be used to support the work of the Inspector General, regardless of the purpose of the original appropriation.

“(i) MEMBERSHIP IN COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.—The Inspector General shall be a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

“(j) CORRECTIVE RESPONSES TO AUDIT PROBLEMS.—Agency heads shall—

“(1) take action to address deficiencies identified by a report or investigation of the Inspector General; or

“(2) with respect to a deficiency identified under paragraph (1), certify to the appropriate congressional committees that they do not concur with the recommendation and no action is necessary, feasible, or appropriate.

“(k) WEBSITE.—The Office shall establish and maintain a user-friendly, public-facing website—

“(1) to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of covered funds, including future supplemental relief and recovery funds as may be added to the definition of covered funds, which shall have a uniform resource locator that is descriptive and memorable;

“(2) that shall be a centralized, government-wide portal or gateway to key information relating to the oversight of covered funds, as appropriate, and to the extent practicable provide connections to other government websites with related anti-fraud, improper payment, and oversight and accountability information; and

“(3) provide information, including findings from the Office, agency Inspectors General, or State auditors and financial managers as to the oversight of covered funds, including related audits, inspections, or other reports.

“(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the following:

“(A) The Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

“(B) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(C) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(D) Any other relevant congressional committee of jurisdiction.

“(2) COVERED FUNDS.—The term ‘covered funds’ means the following:

“(A) Any funds, including loans or tax credits, that are made available in any form to any non-Federal entity or individual, under the following:

“(i) Division A or B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

“(ii) The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123).

“(iii) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127).

“(iv) The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–139).

“(v) Division M or N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

“(vi) The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2).

“(vii) Any loan guaranteed or made by the Small Business Administration, including any direct loan or guarantee of a trust certificate, under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), or any other provision of law.

“(viii) Unemployment compensation, as defined in section 85 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(ix) The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58).

“(x) Public Law 117–169 (commonly known as the ‘Inflation Reduction Act’).

“(xi) The Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168).

“(xii) The CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167 (commonly known as the ‘CHIPS and Science Act of 2022’)).

“(xiii) The Act titled ‘An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14’ (Public Law 119–21).

“(B) A Federal award (as defined under section 7501) in an amount not less than \$50,000.

“(C) Any intramural payment made governmentwide for research activity.

“(D) Any emergency spending related to disaster relief or economic recovery.

“(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery.

“(4) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery.

“(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia,

each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

“(m) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) affect the independent authority of an Inspector General to determine whether to conduct an audit or investigation of covered funds; or

“(2) require any Inspector General to provide funding to support the activities of the Office.”.

(b) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET DIRECTIVE.—On or before March 1, 2029, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Inspector General of Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, shall issue a directive to the head of each agency in the executive branch that disburses or awards covered funds (as such term is defined section 317(m) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) that requires the agency to identify and report opportunities to use the information system and data analytics products of the Fiscal Service to detect and prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments in expenditure of covered funds to the Director and Secretary within 60 days after receiving the directive.

(c) TRANSITIONAL PROVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 403 and 3345 through 3349 of title 5, United States Code, and section 317(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), the individual described in paragraph (2) shall temporarily perform the functions and duties of the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Prevention in an acting capacity until such permanent Inspector General can be appointed under the process established by such section 317(b)(1).

(2) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—The individual described in this paragraph is—

(A) the Chairperson of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee established under section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 533) (hereafter “PRAC”) as of the date this section takes effect; or

(B) if the position described in subparagraph (A) is vacant as of the date on which this section takes effect, the Executive Director of the PRAC.

(d) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES.—Each employee of the PRAC who is to be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery under section 317(h)(3) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be appointed to positions in such Office under terms and conditions of employment that are substantively the same as the terms and conditions of employment applicable to such employee as an employee of PRAC as of the day immediately preceding the date on which this section takes effect.

(e) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 3 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“317. Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery within the Department of the Treasury.”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on December 31, 2028.

#### SEC. 4. DATA SHARING FOR FRAUD PREVENTION AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS; REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE FUTURE LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Section 321(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(10) enter into memoranda of understanding with the heads of other Federal agencies, in-

cluding Offices of Inspector General and Federal law enforcement agencies, and agreements with private entities as may be appropriate and allowable under existing law to secure access to such data assets and information resources as may be appropriate for the Fiscal Service to use to—

“(A) prevent fraud and improper payments in Federal programs and spending;

“(B) support the activities and functions of the Do Not Pay Initiative;

“(C) beginning on December 31, 2028, support the activities and functions of the—

“(i) the Fiscal Service; and

“(ii) the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery established under section 317, in coordination with such Office;

“(D) provide such data to relevant Federal agencies for the identification, prevention, and reduction of waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal spending and use in the conduct of criminal and other investigations, as appropriate; and

“(E) in a manner that ensures any related data sharing agreements provide long term, reliable access to such data assets and information resources, provide the best value to the taxpayer by avoiding duplicative data sharing agreements, include appropriate privacy protections, and require, as appropriate, reimbursement to the Treasury for the reasonable cost of carrying out the agreement.

“(11) with respect to any supplemental emergency disaster, pandemic, economic relief, or other such supplemental appropriations legislative measures totaling more than \$100,000,000 in total funding being considered by Congress or any legislative measure establishing a new program with more than \$100,000,000 in anticipated additional spending in a single fiscal year following the enactment of such legislative measure being considered by Congress, provide, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, to the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives any legislative recommendations on such measures to ensure that—

“(A) existing fraud prevention and oversight functions and entities of the Federal Government or are not supplanted or duplicated under such legislative measure, but are instead required to be used or expanded under such legislative measure;

“(B) any additional resources or authorities for such existing functions and entities are adequately provided for in such legislative measures in order to provide adequate fraud prevention and oversight of funds appropriated for and expended under such program; and

“(C) fraud prevention, payment integrity, and spending transparency best practices are implemented in such legislation to ensure that—

“(i) reporting obligations for Federal fund recipients are harmonized governmentwide and conditioned through legally enforceable mechanisms prior to award; and

“(ii) any sub-recipients and sub-awardees of Federal fund recipients are also included in reporting obligations for such recipients for the purposes of ensuring proper recipient reporting and transparency on the use of funds.”.

(b) COORDINATION AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall—

(1) update or revise as necessary any regulations, memorandum, circulars, or guidance documents to ensure the full and timely implementation of this section; and

(2) issue any necessary governmentwide guidance to Federal agencies to ensure the full and timely implementation of this section.

**SEC. 5. TERMINATION AND TRANSFER OF ASSETS OF PANDEMIC RESPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE.**

(a) **TERMINATION.**—Section 15010(k) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 15 U.S.C. 9053) is amended by striking “September 30, 2034” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

(b) **TRANSFER OF ASSETS.**—On December 31, 2028, all the assets and obligations held by or available in connection with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery established under section 317 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—On December 31, 2028, section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 15 U.S.C. 9053) is repealed.

(d) **DEFINITION OF ASSETS.**—In this section, the term “assets” includes contracts, agreements (including data use agreements and memoranda of understanding), facilities, property, data, records, unobligated or unexpended balances of appropriations, personnel identified by the Chairperson and Executive Director of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee pursuant to section 317(e)(1) of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act, and other funds or resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WALKINSHAW) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act dramatically enhances how agencies prevent fraud, especially during any future national emergency. It also ensures the governmentwide data analytic resources established to investigate pandemic-era fraud are permanently preserved.

Experienced fraudsters understand that when the government responds to a crisis, agencies often let their guard down. Serious failures were exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for the newly established or rapidly expanded financial assistance and benefits programs.

Agencies did not build effective fraud protections into their programs nor implement them until the funds were already lost to fraud.

Although the true extent of the fraud through pandemic relief efforts will

never be determined, GAO estimates that hundreds of billions of dollars were potentially lost to fraud.

The Federal Government also lacked a centralized resource for data and advanced analysis that could have quickly identified fraudulent activities.

The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, or PRAC, built a data analytics capability on the fly as pandemic relief funds were already being expended by agencies.

American taxpayers have been hurt by the lack of swift investigative action and delays in implementing fraud prevention processes.

H.R. 8312 was drafted based on years of diligent oversight work under the leadership of Government Operations Subcommittee Chairman PETE SESSIONS from Texas, who is the sponsor of this bill.

His legislation ensures there is a permanent, governmentwide, antifraud analytics function to assist agency inspectors general with their fraud work.

It ensures a permanent Inspector General Office for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, utilizing the valuable proven resources built by the PRAC over recent years.

This eliminates the need to start from scratch in the inevitable event of a new national emergency.

The bill also includes provisions to ensure appropriate coordination with the governmentwide program integrity and improper payment tools maintained by the U.S. Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service, providing Treasury the authority to develop a governmentwide data analytic support platform for Federal agencies and State-administered, federally funded programs to voluntarily participate in.

This bill is the culmination of years of this committee’s work to understand how agencies can improve their operations to protect hard-earned taxpayer money from fraudsters.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8312, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I am opposed to the Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act.

As the chairman said, since its creation, the PRAC has clawed back millions of dollars in pandemic fraud, and it stands as an exemplar of what smart oversight can do with strong bipartisan support. It works. I support making it permanent, as do my Democratic colleagues on the Oversight Committee.

That is why we supported the extension of the PRAC’s authorization to 2034 last year. Thanks to that bipartisan work, the PRAC is in no danger of disappearing in the near future.

The danger this bill presents, however, is far-reaching, and it is a continuation of President Trump’s war on the inspector general community.

Right now, today, the PRAC is housed in the Council of the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency, or CIGIE, which was created by Congress

to provide a way for the IG community to coordinate, share resources, set audit and investigative standards, learn from one another, and, most importantly, ensure accountability within the IG community itself.

The danger this bill presents is a continued weakening of that IG community. It is clear that President Trump and his administration are afraid of CIGIE, because one of its functions, its core functions, is to investigate inspectors general who are accused of wrongdoing; a function that disrupts his administration’s efforts over the last year and a half to illegally fire independent IGs and replace them with political allies who his administration hopes will cover up the waste, fraud, and abuse perpetrated by his own administration.

To this end, he illegally withheld CIGIE’s congressionally provided funding last fall. All of us, Democrats and Republicans, should be outraged by that because we appropriated that funding. It caused CIGIE to abruptly stop functioning. The websites housing thousands of audit reports went offline. Investigators and law enforcement officers across the IG community were left without access to essential training. That fraud prevention work came to a halt.

Taking the PRAC out of CIGIE and moving it to a third, new Treasury IG is another attempt to weaken the case for funding CIGIE and to further dismantle what remains of a community already very severely weakened by the Trump administration’s efforts to purge independent IGs and replace them with political cronies.

Renewed cuts to CIGIE’s funding would result in a massive loss of capacity for the IG community and less waste, fraud, and abuse identified.

Worse, the bill’s expansion of the Do Not Pay system could threaten the privacy of millions of Americans, given this administration’s really poor track record on information privacy. That is why I filed an amendment to the bill that would walk back the changes proposed and would instead simply make the successful functions of the PRAC permanent within CIGIE. It ain’t broke. We don’t need to fix it. But the majority would not allow that amendment to move forward.

This is another example of congressional Republicans lining up to support the administration’s unrelenting attack on the IG community that started with the illegal mass firings in his first month in office in 2025. Since then, many IG positions have been left vacant, and they have installed overtly partisan appointees in others.

□ 1220

That governmentwide overhaul has created a culture of fear, where IGs are fearful to come forward when they identify waste, fraud, and abuse. Independent oversight has been blocked, and I fear that this bill would give the Trump administration another way to

pull the rug out from inspectors general, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, you will not hear anything more rich in this body today than listening to a Democrat who did absolutely nothing about fraud for the last 4 years talk about why we should oppose a very good measure to prevent and oppose fraud.

Madam Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the sponsor of this good legislation.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, the chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, for yielding.

Mr. COMER has begun telling the story about H.R. 8312, Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act, which we today will discuss, but I think it is important that we probably tell a story because this has two tales, but one truth to it.

The bottom line is that our friends, if they oppose this today, it is because they are embarrassed. They are embarrassed about the legislation that they passed, the operation of the Biden administration with the Treasury, and their insistence that we continue allowing unaided opportunity for fraudsters to come and take advantage of the government.

I thank the distinguished gentleman who has encouraged me from the very beginning. He, as chairman of the committee, and I, as chairman of the Government Operations Subcommittee, have worked completely on a bipartisan methodology, since I have become chairman, with the Democrats, holding hearings, understanding not only the problems but the potential answers. The answers that we have come up with completely would sustain themselves under any opportunity for people to look.

The bottom line is that the excuses that are being offered today come from someone who probably does not know many IGs, has probably never spoken to those about some fear that he believes exists.

Madam Speaker, since 2003, the Government Accountability Office estimated that the Federal Government has improperly paid about \$3 trillion. That means \$3 trillion that was intended for a purpose—probably a very good purpose—has gone to people who have taken that money for a different reason, and that means it is an unintended payment.

During the 4 years of President Biden, the government lost between \$230 and \$520 billion each year. While it is easy to say that the predominance of this occurred, really what the President was dealing with was working through issues related to COVID. I need to understand that I do know that this is a fact.

What happened, though, is the Federal Government made sure that Fed-

eral Government workers were given opportunities to not come to work. They call it telework, but the bottom line is, they were not there to challenge people who were trying to take advantage of the government, knowing that between \$230 and \$500 billion was being fleeced from the Federal Government every year.

We know this because the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, known as the PRAC, investigated these payments as they went out the door. They didn't just go out the door; they flew out the door.

The PRAC was established by the CARES Act of 2020 to oversee the \$2.2 trillion in pandemic spending. In other words, they added fuel to the fire, \$2.2 trillion, knowing they had a problem without an answer.

The Democrats' answer at that time, and still is today, just let the money go—just let it go—because we don't like the way Donald Trump and Republicans are attempting to hold these fraudsters accountable.

The problem is that the CARES Act of 2020 prioritized immediate spending of \$2.2 trillion and left the PRAC to figure out why we were losing so much money, who it was. Madam Speaker, it is hard to watch \$2.2 trillion go out the door knowing that roughly 25 percent of it will never be found or recovered.

In fairness to the Biden administration, they did recognize the need for an organization that would begin looking at this issue. Today, we take that beyond looking.

The Biden administration failed to quickly set up the PRAC and to stop the fraud. Instead, they prioritized payments and ignored the need to learn who was getting these payments, to establish an organization that would know more about what was happening on their watch. The Federal Government got payment receipt information on how these recipients requested their money. They had the whole story in front of them.

We know that the PRAC, however, is now the answer, and they have been the answer. Since the creation of the PRAC, the PRAC has assisted law enforcement and agency inspectors general and partners across 1,200 pandemic-related investigations, with a potential fraud loss of \$2.5 billion.

Today, I am here to tell you, after six hearings conducted by the Oversight Committee and my Government Operations Subcommittee, it is clear that we have a huge number of people defrauding the government, and the PRAC has lots of data and information.

The PRAC has some 1.7 billion pieces of data—names, addresses, emails, cohorts who assisted with that, and other data and information—that was gleaned through the process.

This bill today, H.R. 8312, the Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act, will make sure that the PRAC cannot only continue permanently, which my friends, the Democrats, say that they are not against, but it will also allow a

placement of a permanent home to alleviate the questions that had come up earlier, and that was who is doing the work.

It has been decided that the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service's financial and integrity services will handle this. They are professionals. They are law enforcement, and they have an eye to fraud.

Finally, this bill makes sure that we are never left without proper oversight of funds. We will make sure that no matter the problems that face this Nation, we will be prepared.

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. We are here on the floor today with this opportunity to come up with what started as and still should be a bipartisan agreement.

Instead of sending the money out and then chasing it, we are going to run every bit of this data and information through the PRAC of existing people who receive benefits today. We are going to know that just the word alone of fraud is enough not to stop a payment, but to do an investigation, and it will be done by law enforcement professionals who understand not only authority and responsibility, but they understand the taxpayers' needs.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing this bill to come today. I thank the distinguished chairman of our committee, and I want you to know, this bipartisan bill that started that way still has a chance to end that way.

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

The gentleman from Kentucky said that I had done nothing about fraud for the last 4 years here. I know the gentleman from Kentucky knows that I have not been a Member of this House for 4 years because he reminds me often, but I did spend the last 5 years serving in local government for a county government that was repeatedly named the best managed county in the United States of America.

One of the reasons for that is we had independent auditors, the analogue to IGs, and when they brought forward information that might have been inconvenient for us that there was perhaps waste, fraud, or abuse taking place within the government, we didn't fire them. We listened to that information and acted on it. The Trump administration could learn a little bit from that.

□ 1230

I come to this floor often, and one can be forgiven, Madam Speaker, if you come to the conclusion that Joe Biden is President of the United States right now. That is because with my friends on the other side, every sentence is "subject verb Joe Biden," "subject verb Joe Biden," "Joe Biden this," "Joe Biden that." Joe Biden is on the beach in Delaware.

Donald J. Trump is President of the United States, and he is responsible for the fraud, the corruption, and the abuse taking place in the administration: the \$400 million jet gift of a foreign government; the digital schemes that were reported recently where the Trump family profited \$500 million, while investors—I use that term loosely—in those schemes lost out, every one of our constituents; the no-bid contracts awarded to close political allies of former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem; and the credible allegations that Corey Lewandowski had to be paid off before contracts could be awarded at DHS.

There is corruption, fraud, and abuse, and we hear nothing from the majority about it in this Chamber or on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

With respect to the PRAC—and I believe that the gentleman from Texas is sincere in his view that this bill would be an improvement—I want to share, again, my concerns. We agree that the PRAC works. It is one thing that maybe we agree on today.

Why does it work? Why has it worked better than other tools that we have? I will give you three reasons, Madam Speaker.

One, PRAC has multiagency ownership because it is housed at CIGIE. It can bring together the judgment of IGs across the government, all the IGs. CIGIE is uniquely positioned to allow for all of those perspectives to be brought to bear on the PRAC's work.

Second, it has institutional independence. It is independent of the White House and independent of any agency or department, which allows it to speak truth in a way that, right now, other IGs don't feel they can do.

Third, it is separate from the payment system. It is separate from the payment system, so we can look from above and outside on what is taking place in the payment system to help prevent fraud.

This bill would put the IG overseeing the payment infrastructure inside the very agency that runs that payment structure. I think that weakens it.

I respect that the gentleman from Texas believes that strengthens it. I think the record is clear. If we agree that it works, then why do we want to risk disrupting it?

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8312, the Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act.

The American people expect their government to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, yet every year, the Federal Government loses hundreds of billions of dollars to fraud, waste, and abuse of our hard-earned money.

While the Federal Government provides families, workers, and businesses with the support they need, several

COVID-era spending programs exposed serious weaknesses in our ability to prevent fraud. Once those dollars were lost, it has proven to be nearly impossible to recover them.

This bill shifts the Federal Government from a reactive stance to a proactive one. Instead of focusing primarily on recovering funds after they have been stolen, it prioritizes preventing fraud before taxpayer dollars are ever stolen.

Through better coordination, stronger oversight, and improved safeguards, this bill helps ensure Federal programs are protected from abuse. At a time when our Nation is almost \$40 trillion in debt, every dollar matters.

The American people work far too hard, sacrifice far too much, and wait far too long for their paychecks to watch them be sacrificed to bureaucratic incompetence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Madam Speaker, as I said, this bill would undercut independent inspectors general, which is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

I highlighted the three ways in which I fear it would break the PRAC program that is not broken. We agree, both sides, that the PRAC is working. Why we would want to disrupt it, I don't comprehend. I struggle to comprehend.

I think this bill would be a mistake, and I fear that it would advance the Trump administration's efforts to further undermine and weaken our independent inspectors general, who are our key tools to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, it is estimated that if the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee were established prior to the pandemic, as much as \$79 billion in fraudulent payments could have been prevented on the front end.

The Nation cannot afford to lose such a valuable resource. That is why I call on each of my colleagues to support H.R. 8312 to ensure that these antifraud capabilities are permanently available to Federal agencies and in preparation for any future national emergency.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1345, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

#### STOPPING FRAUDULENT PAYMENTS ACT

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1345, I call up the bill (H.R. 8464) to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize pausing and segmenting payments, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1345, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8464

*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 "Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act".*

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO PAUSE PAYMENTS FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND CORRECTIVE ACTION.

(a) *TREASURY PAYMENT VOUCHER WAIVER AUTHORITY.—*

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

#### "§3337. Authority to pause payments for further review and corrective action

*"(a) AGENCY OBLIGATION TO PAUSE DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION.—The head of an agency shall take a corrective action to temporarily delay, condition, or segment a disbursement request before the certification of a payment voucher under section 3325 if, as determined by an official designated by the head of the agency, the agency—*

*"(1) has sufficient reason to determine that the payment presents an elevated risk of fraud based on a fraud-risk indicator or an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government as estimated under the requirements of section 3352 in accordance with the statutorily-defined eligibility requirements or other legally-established condition of the program for a payee to be eligible to receive payment;*

*"(2) has sufficient reason to determine, based on a notification by the relevant State or local government official in the case of a payment from Federal funds disbursed by a State or local government under a State-administered and federally-funded program, that the payment presents an elevated risk of fraud based on a fraud-risk indicator or an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government as estimated under the requirements of section 3352 in accordance with the statutorily-defined eligibility requirements or other legally-established condition of the program for a payee to be eligible to receive payment; or*

*"(3) has been notified of an order from the Secretary of the Treasury described under subsection (b).*

*"(b) TREASURY OBLIGATION TO RETURN PAYMENT VOUCHER AND ISSUE CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDER.—Except where otherwise required by*