

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

law, the Secretary shall promptly notify the relevant certifying official of an order to return a certified payment voucher submitted to a disbursing official under section 3325 and issue a corrective action order to the head of an agency not later than 2 days after the Secretary makes a determination that 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 that such payment presents an elevated risk of fraud based on a fraud-risk indicator or an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government based on an output of the Do Not Pay system under section 3354.

“(c) AGENCY DOCUMENTATION AND TIME-LIMITED CORRECTIVE ACTION.—An action taken by the head of an agency under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) be based on an objective, documented fraud-risk indicator;

“(2) be narrowly applied to the portion of the payment presenting the elevated risk; and

“(3) be limited in duration to the minimum period necessary, as determined by the head of the agency, to verify eligibility of the payee or accuracy of the payment per any program requirement associated with the payment or as stipulated under law.

“(d) PAYEE NOTIFICATION AND TIME LIMIT OF PAUSED DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS.—With respect to a disbursement request that has been delayed, conditioned, or segmented pursuant to subsection (a) or a payment voucher that is returned pursuant subsection (b), the head of the agency shall take the following actions:

“(1) Promptly provide to the payee (not later than 2 days after a determination under subsection (a) or a notification to the agency under subsection (b)), as appropriate, and for a case in which the payment from Federal funds disbursed by a State or local government under a State-administered and federally-funded program also provides to such relevant State or local government official, a notification that—

“(A) a disbursement has been temporarily paused, conditioned, or segmented;

“(B) identifies the nature of the fraud-risk indicator or improper payment relied upon by the agency to make the corrective action determination under subsection (a) or notification to the agency under subsection (b); and

“(C) outlines the process for the corrective action review period.

“(2) Use a process tailored to the specific requirements and design of the agency program for a payee, or the State or local government described under paragraph (1), to contest any factual inaccuracy or provide clarifying information during the corrective action review period.

“(3) Issue such payment not later than 30 days after a determination to take a corrective action is made by the head of the agency under subsection (a) or the agency was notified by the Secretary under subsection (b) of a corrective action order, but not later than 7 days after the date on which the payee contests the corrective action under the process established pursuant to paragraph (2), if the head of the agency determines that the payment does not present an elevated risk of fraud or an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government.

“(e) SEGMENTATION OF LOW-RISK PAYMENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the head of each agency shall allow a routine, historically consistent payment amount to proceed while temporarily holding an anomalous, unusually large, or high-risk portion of a payment, or class of payments, pending review and resolution of an agency corrective action determination under subsection (a) or a corrective action order under subsection (b).

“(f) EXEMPTIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The head of an agency, in consultation with the Secretary and the Attorney General, may waive any provision in this section on a case-by-case basis if notified of or instructed by a Federal law enforcement authority, includ-

ing an agency Inspector General, that the action will jeopardize an active criminal investigation or legal proceeding related to an effort to defraud the Federal Government or violate sections 3729 through 3733 of title 31 (commonly known as the ‘False Claims Act’).

“(g) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—No officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be personally liable for an action taken in good faith under this section. An action taken under this section may not constitute a final determination of eligibility, liability, or wrongdoing on the part of a payee.

“(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR PROGRAM AUTHORIZING STATUTE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede any other provision of law with respect to any statute that authorizes the payment or program the payment is made under.

“(i) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall issue regulations and establish procedures to administer the requirements of this section that shall be published in the Federal Register that, at a minimum, specify the following:

“(1) The minimum seniority of an agency official designated under subsection (a) authorized to make a determination to issue a corrective action.

“(2) The procedures by which the Secretary of the Treasury will use the Do Not Pay system under section 3354 to make a determination under subsection (b) in accordance with the statutorily-defined eligibility requirements or other legally-established condition of a program for a payee to be eligible to receive payment.

“(3) The procedure for an agency to dispute an order to return a certified payment voucher and appeal a related corrective action order under subsection (b) to the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, which shall at a minimum include a requirement for the agency to receive a response not later than five days after making such a dispute or appeal to the Department of the Treasury.

“(4) The minimum information requirements of a notification required under subsection (d)(1).

“(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) FRAUD-RISK INDICATOR.—The term ‘fraud-risk indicator’ means an objective data point or analytic signal that indicates an anomalous payment pattern or increase in the volume of a payment amount, a verified data mismatch, network or behavioral anomaly, or match identified by the Do Not Pay system under section 3354 and any payment, account, or payee validation program or service administered by the Secretary that would result in financial loss to the Government.

“(3) ROUTINE, HISTORICALLY CONSISTENT PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The term ‘routine, historically consistent payment amount’ means a payment amount that is consistent with previous payment history of the payee, established program use patterns, or other objective benchmarks determined by the certifying agency.

“(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.”

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 31, United States Codes, is amended by inserting after the item for section 3336 the following:

“3337. Authority to pause payments for further review and corrective action.”

(b) REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES OF PAYMENT DISBURSING OFFICIALS.—Paragraph (3) of section 3325(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “, compliance with an order to pause a payment pursuant to section 3337(b),”

after “except for the correctness of computations on a voucher”; and

(2) by striking “,” and inserting a comma.

(c) RELIEF OF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS.—Section 3527 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after “the loss or deficiency was not the result of an illegal or incorrect payment” the following: “, or was made as a result of a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of section 3337”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii), by inserting after “the loss or deficiency was not the result of an illegal or incorrect payment” the following: “, or was made as a result of a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of section 3337”.

(d) REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES OF PAYMENT CERTIFYING OFFICIALS.—Subsection (a) of section 3528 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following

“(6) complying with an order to take a corrective action to temporarily delay, condition, or segment a disbursement request pursuant to section 3337.”

(e) RELIEF OF CERTIFYING OFFICIALS.—Subsection (b)(1) of section 3528 of title 31, United States Code—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the certification was made as a result of a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of section 3337.”

(f) REPORT ON RESULTS OF PAYMENTS PAUSED FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND CORRECTIVE ACTION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, a report on the following:

(1) The total number of orders to return a certified payment voucher submitted to a disbursing official under section 3325 of title 31, United States Code, and corrective action orders issued to the head of an agency under the authorities provided by section 3337(b) of such title, as added by this section.

(2) The percentage of such payments that are issued by the agency, including by successful contestations filed by the recipient or payee with the agency, and recommendations to mitigate such errors in the fraud-risk indicators of the Department of the Treasury in the future.

(3) The total savings to the Federal Government in payments determined to be fraudulent or result in financial loss to the Government under the authorities provided by subsections (a) and (b) of section 3337 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this section.

(4) Any necessary policy, regulatory, or legislative recommendations related to the authorities and requirements under section of section 3337 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this section, or other relevant law.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debated 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 (Mr. COMER).

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, we are facing a national emergency of fraud in Federal programs that is impacting every American.

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Federal Government is estimated to lose between \$233 billion and \$521 billion annually to fraud across all Federal programs and operations.

Earlier this week, we exposed how criminals stole \$9 billion in Minnesota's social services programs while senior State officials, including Governor Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison, did absolutely nothing to stop it.

□ 1240

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Whether in Minnesota, California's hospice system, or Medicaid waiver programs in Ohio or New York, one thing is clear: Fraudsters will keep stealing taxpayer dollars until they are stopped.

Taxpayers bear the burden, while vulnerable Americans, the very people these programs are meant to help, are harmed.

The Trump administration has taken decisive action to combat waste, fraud, and abuse by establishing the White House Task Force to eliminate fraud.

Just this week, Vice President VANCE referred our findings on Minnesota's rampant fraud to the Department of Justice for investigation.

Congress must take further action to stop fraud before it happens.

The Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act adds critical safeguards to ensure Federal payments go to the right recipient in the right amount before funds are awarded or disbursed.

Federal law currently lacks a governmentwide requirement to verify payments and prevent fraud across Federal financial assistance and public benefit programs.

Even when payments show elevated fraud risks, the Treasury Department cannot stop it. It is required to process the payments agencies request.

Under current law, agencies can issue payments despite flags received from Treasury's Do Not Pay system or other tools that might indicate an elevated risk of fraud.

H.R. 8464 addresses the status quo by requiring agencies to conduct fraud prevention activities prior to issuing payment requests. The bill gives Treasury the authority to halt and return payments flagged for fraud risk so agencies can review and correct them before issued.

Agencies would be required to quickly review and resolve payments flagged for elevated risk of fraud unless otherwise mandated by law.

This provides additional assurance to the American taxpayer that money is being paid to the right recipient and for the right amount while preserving the ownership of a program's administration within the appropriate Federal agency as authorized by law.

This bill also helps agencies and the American public understand when a legitimate recipient's identity is being stolen and used for fraudulent activities by criminals.

Lastly, to help Congress oversee progress made in addressing payments with elevated fraud risk, Treasury will summarize the number of returned payments, corrective outcome, and associated cost savings achieved under the requirements of this bill. This ensures Congress has regular oversight of these reforms.

The commonsense reforms outlined in this bill will protect taxpayer dollars from being stolen by fraudsters while maintaining the integrity of Federal programs.

Madam Speaker, I call on each of my House colleagues to support H.R. 8464 to protect taxpayer dollars from falling into the hands of criminals and fraudsters.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, fighting and preventing fraud should be a bipartisan issue, and preventing the misuse of government funds should be a priority shared by Democrats and Republicans alike.

When fraudsters successfully target government dollars, they steal from taxpayers, deprive our most vulnerable neighbors of lifesaving services, and undermine the public's trust in government.

We know that it is difficult to fight fraud and certainly difficult, if not impossible, to claw back payments after they have been delivered to a fraudster. There is no doubt the Federal Government must do more to address this problem.

That is why Oversight Committee Democrats have supported numerous antifraud measures, including the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act, which seeks to add additional payment verification before checks are sent out the door.

Oversight Committee Democrats and our Democratic colleagues across the House will continue to fight waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. However, the bill before us is

flawed and does not constitute a good-faith effort to detect and prevent fraud.

H.R. 8464, the Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act, would give the Trump administration a blank check to cut off entitlements and grants to any entity or individual it disfavors with few guardrails. It would allow the Treasury Department to significantly delay funding if it decides there is sufficient reason that a payment carries an elevated risk of fraud.

This very broad, loosely defined authority could easily be used to target funding to State and local governments, university research grants, transportation funding, Pell grants, NIH grants, and even FEMA assistance.

Due to this administration's policies and this Congress' policies, Americans are struggling to put food on the table, gas in the tank, and to access the healthcare they need. For millions of families, Federal assistance, healthcare, food assistance, and Social Security is the only thing standing between them and financial ruin.

This bill threatens to pull that lifeline away by burying legitimate payments in vague criteria, red tape, and bureaucratic delays.

While we are all serious about stopping fraud, I hope, we can't turn a blind eye to the political interference and weaponization carried out by this administration.

Just last month, it suspended \$1.3 billion in Medicaid payments to California, which will harm nearly a million elderly and disabled residents.

Last December, it threatened to withhold SNAP benefits from Colorado and Minnesota.

In January, the Department of Health and Human Services froze \$10 billion in funding for essential needs across five States led by Democratic Governors. Meanwhile, not one State led by Republicans has been targeted.

The bill's stated intent is to stop improper payments, which we all agree is important. That is why House Democrats supported the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act earlier this week, a bipartisan bill to ensure we check the Do Not Pay list and catch improper payments before they go out the door.

However, the bill we are considering here includes none of those safeguards and will endanger millions of Americans who rely on critical programs for healthcare, food, and rent.

The American people want programs that work, not unnecessary red tape, delayed payments, and more dysfunction.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, let me translate that 5 minutes of gibberish from my colleague.

They don't care about fraud. When you do find fraud, like we found in Minnesota and California, they don't want to cut off the money. They want the money to keep going so the fraudsters can stay in business. That is why we have to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

Ms. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 8464, the Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act.

This legislation is a commonsense, taxpayer-first bill that finally puts an end to the reckless pay-and-chase scam that has drained billions from hard-working American families.

For too long, the Washington bureaucracy has operated like an open checkbook for fraudsters. They cut the checks first, ask the questions later while American taxpayers foot the bill for waste, abuse, and outright theft.

We have seen it in State administered social services where millions vanished into pockets of criminals. Enough is enough.

H.R. 8464 empowers Federal agencies and the Department of the Treasury to pause, condition, or segment suspicious payments before the money flies out the door. It uses objective fraud risk indicators from the Do Not Pay system and requires any action to be narrow, temporary, and focused solely on verifying eligibility. No more blank checks and no more playing defense after fraud has already happened.

I believe in fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and protecting every hard-earned dollar from the American people. This bill delivers exactly that.

It shifts the focus from recovery to prevention, saving billions and ensuring benefits go to eligible Americans, not scammers and fraud rings.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with taxpayers, stand against waste and fraud, and vote "yes" on H.R. 8464.

□ 1250

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Madam Speaker, no one in this Chamber disputes that improper and fraudulent payments are a serious problem. The question before us is not whether to fight fraud; it is how we fight fraud.

If this bill actually does that—and I will give you a hint: It does not. The Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act allows agency officials to block payments whenever they have sufficient reason to believe there is an elevated risk of fraud.

This bill sets the standard so low that any administration can use it to cut off legitimate recipients before a single fact is even proven.

As a former prosecutor and public defender in St. Louis, I know firsthand what fraud accountability looks like. It starts with evidence, not suspicion.

This bill would allow any administration to stop payments for programs it opposes or in States it disfavors, using fraud as a pretext, allowing Trump to target States that disagree with him.

The people who would bear the brunt of payment pauses are the ones who

cannot absorb it. These are patients on Medicaid, our seniors on Social Security, working families relying on SNAP, some of the most marginalized of our American brothers and sisters.

We can fight fraud without handing this administration a blank check to weaponize Federal payments.

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

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

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I want to address the gentleman from Kentucky who described my statement as gibberish. Perhaps to him the details of the programs and the legislation are gibberish, but it is not to me.

I wonder if the gentleman knows how often the Do Not Pay list produces a false positive—in other words, how often the Do Not Pay list says someone shouldn't get paid when actually they are perfectly legitimate.

Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I know only 4 percent of government agencies are utilizing the Do Not Pay list, which—

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I am reclaiming my time.

Madam Speaker, I will just give one agency, Social Security, an agency that has been under assault by this administration. It is estimated that 10,000 times a year, Social Security falsely declares somebody dead.

Imagine that. You wake up one morning, and your own government says you are dead. It happens oftentimes because States send bad information to the Social Security Administration.

Time after time after time, the IG has recommended that Social Security and this body make improvements in that process. They have requested additional funding, which this majority has denied, that would improve that process and prevent some of those false positives.

This bill would make a terrible situation for someone falsely declared by their government to be dead even worse, because if the government says you are dead, you don't get your Social Security checks.

This bill would make an already impossible process, where someone has to go call Social Security, get into an office, and try to get an appointment with an agency that has been decimated by DOGE—I know that my constituents tell me every day that they call Social Security offices and can't get anyone to answer the phone because folks have been fired and pushed out.

This bill would further delay at least 10,000 Americans falsely declared dead each year from getting their Social Security checks. That is just one of the problems.

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

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, the IRS, 52 percent of the time when they say a return is fraudulent, they get it wrong. There are a lot of false positives on the Do Not Pay list.

This bill does nothing to address that situation, to ensure the Do Not Pay list is actually getting the fraudsters, not the law-abiding Americans who deserve their Social Security checks. It would make it a lot harder for all of our constituents to get the money they deserve when the government makes a mistake.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the gentleman eloquently described the Democrat-in-Washington solution to every problem. Whether it is fraud prevention or whatever, it is to hire more government employees and create a bigger government bureaucracy.

This bill that we are debating today keeps the decision of whether or not to hold a payment with the agency. The agency ultimately interprets the results of Do Not Pay.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY).

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8464.

This bill lets the President take away money from anything or anyone he doesn't like, as long as he thinks it is merely at risk for fraud. We have seen what he thinks is fraud.

Last year, Donald Trump froze \$9 million intended for Serve Kentucky. Congress set aside that money for housing, hunger relief, education, and disaster relief in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The White House called that money waste and fraud. I have seen Serve Kentucky's work firsthand. President Trump might not like a program that brings food to seniors or new books to kids, but that doesn't make it fraud.

We know this President uses his power to punish those he does not like. He has done it before. He will do it again.

I agree with my Republican colleagues: No one wants waste or fraud from our taxpayer dollars. Congress must take a hard look at waste and fraud in our government.

Let's start with Donald Trump's ballroom. The President destroyed the White House and then said: Let me build a gaudy, billion-dollar ballroom that looks like it should hold slot machines, not State dinners.

He has been soliciting donations left and right from billionaires, tech and tobacco companies, defense contractors, and dozens more individuals and companies that do business with and profit from the Federal Government and your tax dollars.

The American people, all of us, deserve to know who and how much they are paying for access to President Trump.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would prevent this bill from taking effect until the White House provides a list of every person who has donated to the White House ballroom.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of this amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, as I have said today, preventing fraud should be a priority for all of us, but this bill gives the Department of the Treasury far too much arbitrary authority to prevent critical Federal assistance from reaching Americans in need in a timely manner.

I will be happy to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support legislation like the eight suspension bills we considered earlier this week to combat fraud, but this bill misses the mark.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, these bills we have debated today, H.R. 8312 and H.R. 8464, should be considered in the broader context of the committee's legislative work on fraud prevention and financial integrity reforms.

This week, the House has advanced eight bipartisan fraud and program integrity reform bills that we originally passed out of the Oversight Committee that will safeguard taxpayer dollars from fraudsters and cheats.

Collectively, with the bills advanced in the House this week, the Oversight Committee is preventing fraudulent payments from going out the door, equipping the Federal workforce to fight fraud, protecting taxpayer dollars during national emergencies, reforming agency financial leadership roles to improve agency financial performance, and launching sweeping oversight work at the Government Accountability Office over State administration of federally funded programs.

These governmentwide fraud prevention reforms are long overdue. They will safeguard our constituents' tax

dollars and ensure Federal programs deliver for citizens who need them the most, as Congress intended.

We must continue to advance bold reforms that meaningfully address fraud, and I am proud to say these bills brought before the House this week by the Oversight Committee take a meaningful step toward better stewardship of taxpayer dollars by protecting them from fraud.

Madam Speaker, I urge each of my House colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 8464 as we work to protect the hard-earned tax dollars of the American people.

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

□ 1300

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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MCGARVEY. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MCGARVEY of Kentucky moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8464 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGARVEY is as follows:

Mr. MCGARVEY moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8464 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike section 2(g) and insert the following:

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until a list of each person who has donated to the White House Ballroom is made publicly available, including the following information with respect to each such person:

(1) The amount donated by the person to the White House Ballroom.

(2) Any Federal contract the person has entered into.

(3) Any grant awarded to the person.

(4) Any regulatory matter involving the person.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. COMER. 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 are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1529

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 3 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Jana M. Lean, Chief, Elections Division, California Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Primary Election held on June 2, 2026, the Honorable James Gallagher was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District of California.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D., CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE,
ELECTIONS DIVISION,
Sacramento, CA, June 9, 2026.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that as of June 9, 2026, the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba have an estimated 5,800 unprocessed ballots. The current U.S. House of Representative 1st District encompasses the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba.

As of June 9, 2026, at 8:12 a.m. the unofficial results of the Special Primary Election held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, for U.S. House of Representative 1st District show that James Gallagher received 119,722 votes or 62.3% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

According to the unofficial results, it appears that James Gallagher has received the majority of votes cast for the U.S. House of Representative 1st District of California.

To the best of the Secretary of State's knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the registrar of voters for the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

JANA M. LEAN,
Chief, Elections Division,
California Secretary of State.