

Bill Introduction:

Keep the Watchdogs Running Act

*Increase Government Transparency and Accountability
During a Government Shutdown*

Why Is This Necessary?

- The **Keep the Watchdogs Running Act** would grant Offices of the Inspectors General (OIGs) authority to continue oversight of agency operations during a shutdown.
- Without sufficient authority to operate, OIGs must shut down non-essential operations, rendering them generally unable to carry out their vital oversight work during shutdowns.
- The bill would amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to authorize IGs to continue necessary operations to oversee their agency of jurisdiction if that agency continues to operate during a shutdown.
- Inspectors general (IGs) play a critical role in promoting accountability in Federal government operations by rooting out fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.
- Unfortunately, government shutdowns can prevent OIGs from performing this critical oversight work, even though many federal agencies, contractors, grantees, or other program participants can continue certain activities even during a lapse in appropriations.
- The **Keep the Watchdogs Running Act** was originally introduced by Rep. Gerald E. Connolly in the 118th Congress. The companion bill in the Senate was introduced by Senator Mike Braun.