

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

Opening Statement Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly

Substitute Amendment to H.R. 378, The Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act

July 26, 2017

I am a strong supporter of initiatives that increase efficiency and reduce waste in the federal government, and I believe this bill does that.

Our federal government does important work – from protecting our national security, to ensuring that the water we drink is safe, to caring for our nation’s veterans.

Through legislation and diligent oversight, this Committee helps ensure that our government operates efficiently and effectively while carrying out these important missions.

When taxpayer dollars are wasted, no one benefits. This bill aims to reduce wasteful spending by providing incentives for employees to identify cost savings.

It expands the awards program for federal employees who identify waste, fraud, and abuse to allow an agency head to award an employee a bonus for the identification of wasteful expenses.

The bill also doubles the amount of an award available under the current statute from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The bill requires that agencies report information on disclosures of wasteful spending in their annual, publicly available performance reporting.

In addition, the bill contains a requirement that GAO report on the operation of the awards program within three years, so that Congress can evaluate whether the legislation is working as intended.

I want to thank Chairman Gowdy for working with us on this bill.

Last year, Democratic members raised concerns about a prior version of this bill, and Ranking Member Cummings asked Chairman Chaffetz to work with him to address those concerns.

This bill does that, and the result is a bipartisan product that we should all support.

Contact: Jennifer Werner, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.