

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 10, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Vought:

Just how much of this Administration's waste, fraud, and corruption are you trying to cover up? It seems like all of it.

Last week, at your direction, websites for dozens of Offices of the Inspector General (OIGs)—federal government watchdog that root out waste, fraud, and corruption in the federal government and save taxpayers more than \$50 billion every year—went completely dark. That means reports regarding ongoing corruption or mismanagement of taxpayer funds by this Administration are not accessible or transparent to the American public as required by law. Taking down these websites is also a clear attempt to strip whistleblowers of meaningful avenues to report on wrongdoing by the federal government.¹ This is a flagrant attack on one of the strongest safeguards against lawless behavior by your administration across dozens of agencies.

Your decision to defund an independent oversight body was not due to the ongoing government shutdown—itsself a result of the White House and Republican-controlled Congress's failure to govern. Instead, it was the result of a deliberate move by your office, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to illegally withhold already-appropriated funds from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (the Council), an independent oversight body created by Congress. The Council performs important functions for the oversight community, including critical back-end infrastructure support that is essential to the work of 28 OIGs across the federal government.² As a direct result of this illegal withholding, the website

¹ *Trump Administration Knocks Out At Least 15 Oversight Websites, Saying IGs 'Lied to the Public'*, NextGov FCW (Oct. 1, 2025) (online at www.nextgov.com/digital-government/2025/10/government-watchdog-websites-go-dark-omb-withholds-funds-ig-committee/408524/).

² The Offices of Inspector General are Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB); Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); AbilityOne Commission (AbilityOne); AmeriCorps (AmeriCorps); Architect of the Capitol (AOC); Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA); U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC); Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM); Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); Federal Trade Commission (FTC); Legal Services Corporation (LSC); National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Peace Corps (Peace Corps); Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian); Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA); United States Postal Service (USPS); United States International Trade Commission (USITC); Department of Agriculture (USDA); Department of Energy (DOE); Department of the Interior (DOI); Department of Justice (DOJ); Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); National Science Foundation (NSF); Nuclear

for the Council, *Oversight.gov*, and the websites for dozens of OIGs are unavailable, replaced by a single line: “Due to a lack of apportionment of funds, this website is currently unavailable.”³

Beyond hosting these vital websites, the Council plays a crucial role in ensuring that each of the more than 70 OIGs that operate around the government and that have produced more than 34,000 public reports are able to do their work exposing and correcting waste, fraud, and corruption in government agencies. Created by Congress in 2008 with strong bipartisan support, the Council’s statutory mandate is to conduct cross-agency oversight work, promote accountability within the OIG community, and develop training and quality standards.

OMB is withholding at least \$28 million in funding from the Council that Congress has already appropriated and that has been paid into the Inspectors General Council Fund from OIGs across government to assist them in critical oversight functions for the current year. These funds mean that the Council should not be affected by the current government shutdown. OMB’s decision to illegally withhold these funds means that not only has the Council been forced to furlough staff and stop their statutorily mandated functions, but also that OMB has intentionally ensured that taxpayer dollars paid into the Fund are being wasted while agencies go unsupervised.⁴

The withholding of congressionally appropriated funding is an illegal attempt by the Trump Administration to cripple constitutionally mandated independent oversight of its activities. The Trump Administration is once again attempting to undermine these oversight organizations just months after it illegally fired 19 inspectors general and attempted to install several loyalists in their place.⁵ This is another shocking step in the effort to cover up the rampant fraud and corruption, as well as waste of taxpayer dollars, that has defined this Administration.⁶ If independent watchdogs are silenced, corruption and violations of the law by federal agencies will go un-investigated and a key safeguard will be eliminated. The consequences for the American people will be serious.

Regulatory Commission (NRC); Office of Personnel Management (OPM); Department of Education (ED); Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA).

³ Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *IGnet.gov* (online at <https://www.ignet.gov/>) (accessed Oct. 2, 2025); Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *Oversight.gov* (online at <https://www.oversight.gov/>) (accessed Oct. 2, 2025). Some offices have managed to respond with stripped-down websites that serve as an emergency stopgap but are no replacement for full websites—they lack access to OIG reports and continue to greatly limit whistleblowers’ ability to provide confidential information.

⁴ Letter from Acting Chair Tammy L. Hull, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to Congress (Sept. 25, 2025).

⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to 24 CFO Act Agencies (Aug. 15, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-15.garcia-et-al-to-24-cfo-act-agencies-re-oigs.pdf>).

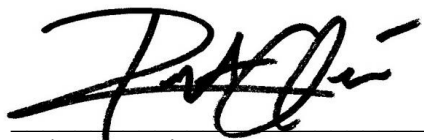
⁶ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to the Honorable Jamieson Greer, Acting Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel (Oct. 2, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-10-02-garcia-to-osc-re-hatch-act-shutdown-agency-messages.pdf>).

We demand that you immediately release congressionally appropriated funds to the Council, as required by law. To ensure that Congress can perform its constitutional oversight responsibilities, we also request that you provide the following documents and information by October 24, 2025:

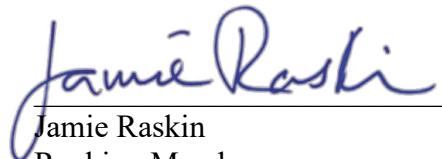
1. All documents and communications referring or relating to funding for the Council or OIGs;
2. All documents and communications between OMB and the Executive Office of the President regarding apportionments for fiscal year 2026;
3. All documents, communications, and memoranda within OMB regarding apportionments for FY 2026;
4. A detailed explanation regarding OMB's decision to withhold funding for the Council, including when the decision was made and who made it; and
5. A detailed explanation regarding the legal authority that justifies OMB's withholding of the Council's apportioned funds for FY 2026.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. The Committee on the Judiciary has broad oversight over issues related to the administration of justice and law. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Oversight Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051 and Judiciary Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-3951. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary