

**Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly**

**Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute offered to the  
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**Authorization and Oversight Plan of the  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
119th Congress**

Strike all after “Lapsed Authorizations” and insert the following:

**Lapsed Authorizations**

The Committee will consider lapsed authorizations in its jurisdiction in the 119th Congress, and work to enact necessary authorizations and reforms. These include the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) (expired September 30, 2007); the National Archives Historical Publications and Records Commission (NAHPRC) (expired September 30, 2009); the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) (expired September 30, 2007); the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) (expired September 30, 2023); the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant (DC-TAG) program (September 30, 2012); the D.C. Opportunity Scholarships Program (DCOSP) (expired September 30, 2023); and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) (expired September 30, 2023).

**Expiring Authorizations this Congress**

The Committee will consider expiring authorizations in its jurisdiction in the 119th Congress, and work to enact necessary authorization and reforms. These include: the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) (expires September 30, 2025); and the General Services Administration’s Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) (expires December 31, 2025).

**Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Mismanagement**

The Committee will continue to examine instances of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of the activities of the federal government, with an emphasis on spending. The Committee’s oversight will cover all federal government departments, agencies, and programs with an eye toward solutions for eliminating wasteful spending, curtailing abuse of authority, and mitigating risk of improper payments. It will offer targeted legislative proposals that proactively address identified waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

## **The Federal Workforce**

As the authorizer of civil service rules under Title 5 of the United States Code, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure the federal workforce is operating efficiently and effectively to achieve lawful agency missions. The Committee will monitor the return of the federal workforce to in-person operations. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the federal hiring process is competitive, merit-based, technology-based, and conducted in a cost-effective manner. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that all federal employees are accountable and effectively executing their roles and responsibilities.

The Trump Administration has engaged in a purge of non-partisan, civil servants, including career professionals and independent government watchdogs, which will have catastrophic results for the American people who rely on our government for services and benefits. The Trump Administration's rapid and sweeping effort to politicize the federal workforce, weaponize career professionals, freeze federal hiring, and purge new employees, is in many cases legally dubious and in all cases will result in chaos and a broken federal government. The Trump Administration's actions must be investigated to determine the extent of their lawlessness and identify areas for legislative reform.

## **Federal Regulation and the Regulatory Process**

While some federal regulations are necessary to effectively implement the laws that Congress passes, federal regulations can also impose significant and often unnecessary compliance burdens that stifle innovation and increase costs. The Committee will oversee the federal regulatory process to ensure that federal regulators work to minimize unnecessary burdens on small businesses, job creation, economic growth, innovation, and competitiveness in the global marketplace while maintaining protections for the American people. The Committee will oversee implementation of the Trump Administration's Executive Order "Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Deregulatory Initiative" issued on February 19, 2025, to ensure the lawful application of federal statutes and the Constitution.

## **The Government Accountability Office**

As the authorizer of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Committee will continue to support its mission. In addition, and as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(A), the Committee will continue to receive and examine GAO reports and submit to the House such recommendations as it considers necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of the reports.

The GAO has issued its biennial “High Risk List” report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement, or are in need of transformation. The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of agencies and programs included on the High Risk List by holding hearings, meeting with agency officials responsible for included programs, and monitoring agencies’ corrective plans and actions.

To conduct work on behalf of Congress it is imperative that GAO’s access is not impeded or delayed, and that GAO has access to all records necessary to conduct its monitoring and oversight activities as prescribed under the law. The Committee will ensure that GAO is able to conduct independent, non-partisan monitoring and oversight of how taxpayer dollars are spent and that its access is unencumbered. As the Comptroller General’s 15-year term concludes and a new Comptroller General is considered by the Committee, the Committee will ensure candidates are independent, nonpartisan, and experts in carrying out the work of GAO. The Committee will also ensure that candidates for Comptroller General are of the highest ethical caliber and uphold the integrity and accountability of the position.

## **Inspectors General**

The Committee will continue to work closely with the inspectors general to ensure they have the tools needed to effectively perform their important oversight and investigative work and are effectively and impartially overseeing their respective agencies. The Committee also intends to help ensure inspectors general maximize accountability from their respective agencies, including by minimizing impediments and delays in obtaining access to data and information relevant to agency programs. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). The Committee will also consider the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), which is set to terminate on September 30, 2025. The Committee will review any need to extend the PRAC beyond that date, including the

existing centralized data analytics unit within the PRAC—the Pandemic Analytics Center of Excellence—to ensure continued efforts to prevent, identify, and combat fraud in federal programs.

The Committee will investigate the Trump Administration’s illegal removal of 18 inspectors general across 19 departments and agencies. The Trump Administration’s firings violate the law, attack our democracy, and undermine the safety of the American people. The Trump Administration’s firing of inspectors general undermines the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars, degrades the federal government’s ability to function effectively and efficiently, and raises significant concerns about retaliation and politicization of inspectors general that must remain independent and be protected. The Committee shall also consider legislative reforms to prevent the future removal of inspectors general in the absence of a legitimate rationale.

### **GSA Real Property Disposal**

The management of federal real property has been on GAO’s High-Risk list since 2003 because it can take years to sell or otherwise dispose of unneeded government properties. These properties can require millions of dollars of taxpayer funds to maintain. The Committee will examine the results to date of the pilot programs authorized by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, which was intended to achieve cost savings by expediting property sales through new mechanisms, including a temporary Public Buildings Reform Board. The Committee will also investigate the potential financial losses to the federal government and conflicts of interest related to rushed property sales, cancelled leases, and terminated construction projects.

### **Whistleblower Protection**

The Committee will maintain its efforts related to the protection of whistleblowers in the federal government, including the preservation of independent agencies where whistleblowers may report concerns, such as the Office Special Counsel. The Committee will continue to work directly with whistleblowers, including those who make disclosures of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement to the Committee. The Committee will continue to advance policies that protect federal employees’ rights, and those of federal contractors and other recipients of financial

assistance, to communicate directly with Congress and independent agencies which serve whistleblowers to ensure such employees are aware of these rights, encouraging other whistleblowers to come forward. The Committee will examine directives restricting federal employees from communicating freely with Congress and independent agencies which serve whistleblowers, as well as allegations of retaliation or reprisal for communicating with Congress and agencies within the bounds of the law.

The Committee is gravely concerned about the abrupt, partisan, and illegal termination of the Special Counsel by President Donald Trump and his related attempts to undermine the Office of Special Counsel. The Committee will make every effort to restore and preserve the Office of Special Counsel's core function as a secure channel for federal employees to blow the whistle by disclosing wrongdoing.

## **Federal Financial Management**

The Committee will examine federal financial management. The Committee will focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments, ensure payment integrity and proper accounting practices, and achieve an unqualified audit opinion for the federal government. The Chief Financial Officers Act, as amended, requires federal agencies to prepare agency-wide financial statements that undergo outside audit. To date, GAO has been unable to issue an audit opinion on the consolidated, government-wide financial statements, in part due to serious financial management problems at the Department of Defense. In particular, the Committee will focus on overseeing the Department of Defense's financial management processes and its progress towards becoming auditable.

The Committee will also continue to investigate improper payments distributed by federal agencies. Under the 2002 Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), federal agencies are required to annually review all programs and activities to identify those entities susceptible to significant improper payments.

The Committee will investigate improper access to and interference with federal payment systems by the so-called Department of Government Efficiency. The Committee will focus especially on instances in which the integrity of taxpayer data or benefit payments is compromised.

## **Government Contracting**

Controlling federal government contract spending is critically important. The federal government buys a wide variety of goods and services, from pens to sophisticated weapons systems to cybersecurity tools and services. The Committee will conduct oversight of agency contracting to ensure there is appropriate management of taxpayer funds and agencies are effectively using acquisition strategies to achieve policy goals and ensure programmatic and mission success. Further, the Committee will conduct oversight that includes a focus on contract management and identify areas where the government has not effectively optimized commercial best practices or is not instituting mechanisms to ensure sufficient competition. The Committee will also promote the establishment of transparency requirements at the point of award to achieve the necessary levels of oversight throughout the life cycle of federal contracts to prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. In its effort to promote transparency in federal procurement, the Committee will investigate any conflicts of interest that may arise from government contractors simultaneously holding roles within the Administration.

## **Grant Reform**

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of federal grants, including grant programs and activities. The Committee will examine the efficiency, fairness, and transparency of the grant-making process, and evaluate opportunities to reform and streamline the grant-making process across the federal government. The Committee will also focus on ensuring greater efficiency for the post-award reporting requirements of recipients of federal financial assistance and better visibility into the use of federal financial assistance in order to combat fraud and abuse. The Committee will also ensure that grant programs funded by Congress are faithfully executed and awarded and will investigate any instances in which the Administration has acted counter to the Article I powers of Congress and the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

## **Cybersecurity and Data Privacy**

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the increasing number of cyberattacks impacting federal agencies and the private sector. The Committee intends to examine ways to ensure that agencies and corporate entities take appropriate steps to protect private- and public-sector networks and information systems that are critical to the nation's infrastructure and security, and the personal information of all Americans. The Committee also will continue its oversight of government-wide cybersecurity standards, policies, systems, and tools established or implemented by the Executive Branch to protect federal information systems.

The Committee will investigate activities of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency that have already raised serious cybersecurity concerns across federal agencies, including exposed entry points to federal systems and sensitive data, as well as potentially unauthorized access to classified and otherwise sensitive data.

## **Information Technology and Management**

The Committee will review the federal government's IT acquisition and management policies to ensure that taxpayers are getting the maximum return for their money. The Committee will closely monitor the executive branch's efforts, including the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, to address IT systems and projects that are not achieving their intended purpose, streamline those that are wasteful, rework those that are failing to deliver value on time and under budget, and work to ensure that costly, failing legacy systems are decommissioned. The Committee will explore legislative reforms to ensure that federally maintained information technology can be readily tied to agency funding accounts and relevant contract awards, as well as agency programs and strategic mission goals which are supported by these IT investments.

## **Open Government and Transparency**

The Committee will continue to advocate for data-driven solutions for increasing transparency and accountability throughout the federal government. The Committee will evaluate possible legislation to set policy goals that better harmonize reporting obligations and achieve data-driven transparency around federal agency programmatic organization and performance, regulatory

procedures and information collections, spending and financial management, and evidence-informed policymaking.

The Committee will investigate attempts by the Trump Administration to hide critical information from the public, especially information relating to the actions of Elon Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency. The Committee is particularly concerned about President Trump's actions to exempt the so-called Department of Government Efficiency from laws and regulations governing transparency, including information subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Committee will take all actions necessary to ensure that DOGE is subject to the standard of scrutiny and transparency required by the federal government.

### **United States Postal Service**

The Committee will monitor continued implementation of the Postal Service Reform Act (PSRA), which was intended to facilitate the ability of the U.S. Postal Service to achieve long-term operational independence and financial sustainability in the wake of declining mail volume. The Committee will continue to track the financial performance of the Postal Service, to determine whether the law is working as intended. It will also oversee OPM's continued administration of the Postal Service Health Benefit program created by the PSRA. In addition, the Committee will continue to monitor the Postal Service's ability to deliver the mail expeditiously. Finally, the Committee will ensure that the Postal Service has experienced, nonpartisan management capable of strengthening its finances, stopping privatization efforts, and rejecting any attempts to undermine the independence of the Postal Service.

### **Government of the District of Columbia**

The Committee will work to protect and expand home rule in the District of Columbia and to make D.C. a state.

### **National Archives and Federal Records**

The Committee will continue its oversight of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) management of government records and ongoing records processing backlogs. This oversight includes how NARA preserves records, including classified records, at the end of a presidential administration. The Committee will also monitor the National Personnel Records Center, which processes records vital for veterans to receive health care and other benefits, to ensure it has sufficient personnel to process these records in a timely manner.

### **Office of Government Ethics**

The Committee will continue its oversight and support of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), especially in light of foundational attacks on the agency from the Trump Administration. The agency is tasked with collecting both confidential and public financial disclosures, ethics agreements, and other forms from government officials, including the president, vice president, and government appointees. OGE is responsible for leading and overseeing executive branch ethics programs by making and interpreting ethics laws and regulations, supporting and training executive branch ethics officials, administering the executive branch financial disclosure systems, monitoring senior leaders' compliance with ethics commitments, ensuring agencies comply with ethics program requirements, and making ethics information available to the public.. The Committee will continue to ensure OGE operates in a manner consistent with its mission of providing clear and impartial ethics guidance to federal agencies. The Committee will also consider reauthorization of OGE, whose statutory authorization lapsed in 2007. =

The Committee is concerned the Trump Administration will continue to take actions to weaken or eliminate OGE, as evidenced by President Trump's abrupt termination of the OGE director and installation of an acting director with inherent conflicts of interest.

### **Federal Disaster Response & Recovery**

The Committee will continue its oversight of FEMA's response to major recent natural disasters, including short-term efforts to assist survivors, as well as longer-term efforts to help impacted communities recover. The Committee will explore legislative options to make FEMA more responsive to the unique circumstances of different regions and communities, as well as options to make federal funding opportunities more direct and accessible.

The Committee will also conduct oversight into Trump Administration efforts to modify FEMA, including any attempts to eliminate the agency or to condition critical disaster assistance on political support.