



# COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEMOCRATS

## Government Spending Oversight Committee Act of 2024

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world overnight, putting the physical and financial health of families, individuals, and businesses at risk. Congress took swift, bipartisan action—providing more than \$5 trillion in economic relief. These funds stabilized the nation. But not all funding reached the families and businesses who needed it. Fraudsters and bad actors targeted lifesaving assistance programs to siphon funds from communities and individuals in need.

Since 2002, federal laws have required agencies to identify programs susceptible to significant improper payments. Despite rigorous annual reporting requirements related to identifying improper payments and their causes, estimates have steadily risen from \$35 billion in 2004 to \$281 billion in 2021, according to the GAO.

Congress must work with agencies to rethink how the federal government can use existing data and technology to facilitate governmentwide collaboration and reduce improper payments *before* they go out the door.

**The Government Spending Oversight Committee Act of 2024** places federal inspectors general at the center of fraud reduction and provides them with the tools to lead the government's efforts to combat fraud across more than 10 major funding bills, including pandemic-related spending.

### **Specifically, this bill would:**

- Replicate the successful work of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), which sunsets in 2025, by creating its successor, the Government Spending Oversight Committee (GSOC), within the interagency council of federal inspectors general (IG). To date, the PRAC has helped to uncover an estimated \$1.95 billion in fraud loss, a significant return on investment.
- Provide GSOC with authorities to use data sources, analytics, and oversight authorities necessary to identify fraud risk.
- Authorize GSOC to share expert staff with federal IG offices to help share the knowledge and skills necessary to better combat fraud.

### **Background**

Senators Gary Peters and Mitt Romney introduced companion legislation in the Senate, which recently advanced out of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. That bill is endorsed by Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, who heads GAO, and the current head of the PRAC, Michael E. Horowitz.

To restore citizen trust in government and to demonstrate its commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, Congress must support and incentivize agencies to make anti-fraud efforts a priority.