

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2025

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

Director Vought:

I write with great alarm regarding the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) recent decision to defund the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). This action seriously threatens the ability of the Federal government to conduct independent oversight of the Executive branch. It clearly disregards statutory requirements, threatens the ability of federal employees to submit whistleblower complaints against Inspectors General (IG), and represents a blatant continuation of the Trump Administration's politically motivated attacks on the IG community.

Federal IGs were first established by Congress in the Inspector General Act of 1978. IGs help Congress uncover waste, fraud, and abuse at federal agencies, and help agencies find efficiencies that can improve service to the American public. Through audits, evaluations, and investigative recoveries, IGs have identified more than \$93 billion in potential savings on a \$3.5 billion investment in IG budgets. That is a \$26 return on every dollar spent on federal IGs.

CIGIE, which was established by congressional statute and is comprised of active IGs, helps hold the IG community to the highest professional and ethical standards. CIGIE's Integrity Committee, which was authorized by Congress, fields and investigates allegations of wrongdoing against IGs and certain senior officials within Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs).

CIGIE also plays an essential role in supporting IGs across the government by providing training, peer review, and cross-agency coordination. Further, it administers oversight.gov, the public portal for IG reports and allegation disclosures against individual IGs, and houses and administers the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), an oversight body with bipartisan support that Congress statutorily extended through 2034 to ensure proper oversight of trillions in pandemic relief funds.

Congress established CIGIE by statute, and its functions are not optional. OMB does not have the authority to unilaterally defund an office with statutory responsibilities created by Congress without providing for how those functions will be carried out. Furthermore, dismantling the scaffolding that upholds the IG community impairs Congress's ability to exercise its constitutional oversight responsibilities and prevents congress from countering waste, fraud, and abuse. Rather, it exposes the administration's true intent—to weaken the IG community into a small circle of political allies, strip away independent oversight, and allow the executive branch to act unilaterally without accountability.

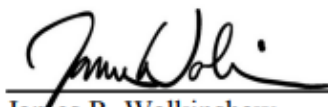
Given these concerns, I request your immediate response to the following questions:

1. How will CIGIE's statutorily mandated responsibilities be carried out in the absence of funding?
2. Specifically, how will the PRAC continue to exercise oversight of the use of pandemic related funds without disruption?
3. Who will administer and staff oversight.gov, including the publication of Inspector General reports?
4. How will OMB ensure there is no interruption in the ability of federal employees to submit complaints against individual Inspectors General?
5. What contingency plans does OMB have to ensure continuity of IG peer reviews, training programs, and other cross-agency oversight activities previously coordinated by CIGIE?

Congress has a duty to safeguard the independence and effectiveness of federal oversight. That is why I intend to further champion the Inspectors General community by advancing the Keep the Watchdogs Running Act (H.R. 2180), which would ensure the IG community remains functional even during a shutdown. A strong and independent IG community is integral to good governance and to holding the federal government accountable.

I request your prompt answers to the above questions to ensure these statutory responsibilities are fulfilled without disruption.

Sincerely,



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress