



August 30, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Oversight of Federal Spending

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

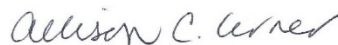
On August 10, the Senate passed S.Con.Res.14, the fiscal year 2022 budget resolution. As Congress considers funding the Administration's \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better Plan through reconciliation, we write on behalf of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) to request that you: (1) continue to provide Inspectors General with adequate resources for robust oversight; and (2) allow oversight funds provided to Inspectors General to remain available until expended. These steps will enable important oversight of increased expenditures and maximize the recovery of misused funds.

As you know, major increases in government funding, as contemplated in S.Con.Res.14, carry an elevated risk of fraud. Congress has recently recognized this by providing funding to Offices of Inspector General (OIGs) whose agencies received funding under the CARES Act, the American Rescue Plan, and most recently, in the Senate-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684). These increases in OIG funding—targeted to agencies that are receiving or managing additional funds—will allow those OIGs to provide robust oversight of the additional influx of funds without diminishing critical oversight over the existing portfolio of agency programs. Members of the IG community that have received supplemental oversight funding have a strong track record of fighting fraud, waste, and abuse and identifying risks to these programs. Thus, CIGIE recommends that new funding increases contemplated in the budget reconciliation process also include parallel increases to agency OIGs for oversight.

In addition, we respectfully request that oversight funds are provided to OIGs as no-year funding, available until expended. While OIGs are expanding their efforts to provide close to real-time oversight of their agencies' programs and operations, much oversight work, regardless of whether it is an audit, evaluation, inspection, or investigation, takes place *after* the agencies' expenditures and continues well beyond the funding cycles. For instance, when OIG investigators uncover fraud and work with the Department of Justice on a criminal or civil action, our support of the Justice Department's activities can take years. Similarly, most inspections and audits are initiated *after* the Department's projects are funded. Allowing OIGs to utilize their oversight funds until they are expended helps ensure that we will have sufficient resources to pursue investigations to their logical conclusion and initiate audits or inspections based on risk, rather than timing. This strengthens OIGs' ability to identify and hold individuals who misuse the funds accountable and provide meaningful oversight of programs and operations.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our requests which will enhance OIG's oversight capabilities and ensure the public's trust.

Respectfully,



Allison C. Lerner
Chairperson, CIGIE



Kathy Buller
Chairperson, CIGIE Legislation Committee

CC: The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Jason Smith
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman, House Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jason Miller
Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget

John Pasquantino
Acting Controller, Office of Management and Budget