

March 6, 2026

RE: Support for Reforms to Protect the Power of the Purse

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations hold differing views on federal spending levels and policy priorities, but we are united in support of Congress's constitutional power of the purse and the faithful execution of appropriations laws. Just as our democracy depends on a system of checks and balances, our [founders](#) recognized the importance of a Constitution "where the purse is lodged in one branch, and the sword in another."

To ensure that Congress's intent is honored and that oversight remains robust, we urge the Committee to include the following provisions in upcoming Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations legislation:

- **Ensure budget execution independence for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE):** Each year, CIGIE evaluates and asks Congress for funding to fulfill its programmatic needs for the upcoming fiscal year. But CIGIE's ability to access the funds needed to fulfill its mission—which includes addressing governmentwide integrity and effectiveness issues and facilitating development of a highly skilled inspectors general workforce—remains subject to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) apportionment process, which can delay or restrict access to appropriated funds. To ensure true independence for our nation's watchdogs, Congress should extend CIGIE's autonomy to the execution phase by making CIGIE's apportionments exempt from apportionment.
- **Protect against "pocket rescissions" by requiring timely availability of funds:** To prevent the executive branch from unilaterally rescinding funds by simply "running out the clock," Congress should require that appropriated funds be made available to agencies with sufficient time to be obligated in accordance with the law. At a minimum, funds should be apportioned and released at least 90 days before their period of availability expires. This ensures that the executive branch cannot use strategically timed delays to subvert congressional intent.
- **Report on agencies collections of gifts:** To ensure Congress has an accurate understanding of the resources agencies draw upon outside the appropriations process, agencies should be required to report publicly to Congress on their gift authorities and share information about gifts received (above a de minimis amount) over the prior 10 years, to the extent data is available, and over the current fiscal year at a minimum. This report should detail the authority for accepting and the amount, type, and number of gifts, providing Congress and taxpayers with a clear picture of private contributions to public institutions.
- **Increase transparency in the apportionment process:** While federal law now requires OMB to publicly post apportionments, there is still a "black box" of funds for which OMB

has received apportionment requests but delayed for months or failed to apportion the funds. Undue delays in apportionment can frustrate congressional directives, hamper responsible program management, and lead to rushed end-of-year spending. Section 748 should require agencies to notify Congress whenever there is a delay of longer than 21 days in the OMB review of a request for apportionment. This notification would provide Congress with the visibility necessary to identify and address potential impoundments or administrative bottlenecks in real-time.

These reforms are common-sense measures that promote a more transparent, accountable, and constitutionally sound implementation process for appropriations. By strengthening the independence of Inspectors General and ensuring that Congress's spending decisions are executed faithfully and transparently, these provisions protect the interests of all Americans regardless of political affiliation.

These reforms reinforce Congress's constitutional role regardless of which party controls the executive branch. We look forward to working with you to ensure these vital protections are enacted into law.

Sincerely,

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG)
Project On Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Taxpayers for Common Sense

Proposed Language:

- **Ensure budget execution independence for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE):**

Amounts appropriated for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency in this or any prior fiscal year or deposited in the Inspectors General Council Fund under 5 U.S.C. § 424(c)(3)(A)(i)(I) shall be exempt from apportionment under the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 15 of Title 31.

- **Protect against "pocket rescissions" by requiring timely availability of funds:**

Budget authority made available in this or any other Act which has been proposed to be rescinded or that is set to be reserved or proposed to be deferred in a special message transmitted under section 1012 or 1013,

(1) shall be made available for obligation in sufficient time to be prudently obligated as required under section 1012(b) or 1013; and

(2) may not be deferred or otherwise withheld from obligation during the 90-day period

before the expiration of the period of availability of such budget authority, including, if applicable, the 90-day period before the expiration of an initial period of availability for which such budget authority was provided.

- **Require reporting on agency gift collections:**

Any department or agency receiving funds under this or any other Act shall within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year report to Congress, and within 45 days of the end of the fiscal year make a report available on a publicly accessible website, which includes (1) the department or agency's gift authorities; (2) a list of gifts received above a \$100,000 value, that includes the type of gift (real property, cash, investment instruments, etc.), any conditions or restrictions on the gift, and the gift's value, for fiscal year 2027, and (3) the information described in subsection (2) for the prior 10 fiscal years, to the extent data is available.

- **Increase transparency in the apportionment process:** Edits to existing Section 748 of the Financial Services & General Government Appropriations Act in **BOLD**)

Sec. 748. (a) Each department or agency of the executive branch of the United States Government shall notify the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate and any other appropriate congressional committees if—

(1) an apportionment is not made in the required time period provided in section 1513(b) of title 31, United States Code;

(2) an approved apportionment is not received by such department or agency within [21 days] of submission;

(3) an approved apportionment received by the department or agency conditions the availability of an appropriation on further action; or

(4) an approved apportionment received by the department or agency may hinder the prudent obligation of such appropriation or the execution of a program, project, or activity by such department or agency.

(b) Any notification submitted to a congressional committee pursuant to this section shall contain information identifying the bureau, account name, appropriation name, **date such department or agency submitted the request for approval**, and Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol or fund account.