

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

September 11, 2025

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
44 G Street, NW
Washington DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

The Federal Inspector General (IG) community serves a key function by providing independent and objective oversight of federal agencies with the aim of preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse. Under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, an IG's oversight role is to conduct various reviews of the agency's programs and operations—including audits, investigations, inspections, and evaluations—and provide findings and recommendations.¹ However, historically, and especially in recent months, maintaining a fully staffed cadre of permanent IGs in federal agencies has been a serious challenge. Whether the IGs are presidentially appointed and confirmed by the Senate or appointed and confirmed through agency processes, maintaining a fully staffed group of IGs is key to ensuring the federal government implements congressional priorities effectively and efficiently.

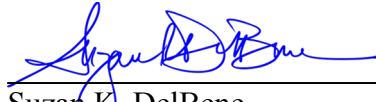
Currently there are more than 20 vacant presidentially appointed IG positions across the federal government. We are concerned that those vacancies could be negatively impacting the work being performed within the IG community. Given these concerns, we request that the U.S Government Accountability Office (GAO) review the status of the IG community's senior-level staffing shortages to determine the impact on their work over the last 5 years and on future work. Selected IGs should include, but not be limited to, the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Health and Human Services offices. Specifically, we ask that the GAO review:

- whether there have been impacts on staffing in IG offices where the IG has been recently removed,
- whether there have been changes in the timeliness of information reported in IG semi-annual reports,
- whether the removal of IGs has resulted in the cancellation or delay of investigations or audits, and
- whether the removal of IGs has impacted overall morale at IG offices.

We request that the GAO provide the results of its review through formal reports, testimonies, and/or staff and member briefings, as appropriate. Please coordinate with committee staff listed below to provide regular status updates on the progress of this important review.

¹5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424.

Sincerely,



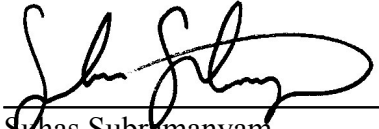
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



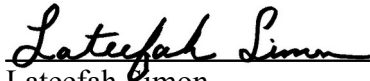
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



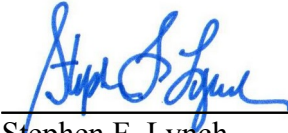
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress