

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3468

To require the Commissioner of Social Security, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to certify to Congress that any planned staffing cuts or regional field office closures will not impact the provision of Congressionally-authorized services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2025

Ms. SHERRILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Veterans' Affairs, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Commissioner of Social Security, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to certify to Congress that any planned staffing cuts or regional field office closures will not impact the provision of Congressionally-authorized services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Retirement
3 and Health Benefits for Families Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The head of a covered agency
6 shall certify to Congress before carrying out a covered ac-
7 tivity that such covered activity will not impact the provi-
8 sion of services or benefits by such covered agency in a
9 manner that—

10 (1) reduces the receipt of benefits or financial
11 assistance from a covered agency by individuals who
12 are eligible for, or entitled to, such benefits or finan-
13 cial assistance;

14 (2) increases delays in the receipt of benefits or
15 financial assistance from a covered agency, or in the
16 response times of a covered agency to inquiries
17 about benefit or financial assistance receipt, by indi-
18 viduals who are eligible for, or entitled to, such bene-
19 fits or financial assistance; or

20 (3) limits the ability of the staff of a covered
21 agency to conduct outreach or other activities de-
22 signed to increase the receipt of benefits or financial
23 assistance from a covered agency by individuals who
24 are eligible for, or entitled to, such benefits or finan-
25 cial assistance.

1 (b) REPORT.—Along with each certification required
2 by subsection (a), the head of a covered agency shall sub-
3 mit a report to Congress explaining how the head of the
4 agency will shift resources or operational procedures of the
5 agency to ensure that carrying out the covered activity
6 does not impact the provision of services or benefits by
7 that covered agency in a manner described under para-
8 graphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a), including how
9 the head of the covered agency will shift resources or oper-
10 ational procedures of the agency to prevent the covered
11 activity from—

12 (1) causing staffing shortages that reduce the
13 ability of the covered agency to process benefit
14 claims and send out benefit payments;

15 (2) leading to increases in phone and walk-in
16 wait times for benefits-related inquiries;

17 (3) reducing the level or intensity of outreach
18 efforts designed to boost the receipt of benefits by
19 individuals eligible for those benefits;

20 (4) harming the ability of the head of such cov-
21 ered agency to conduct regulatory, investigatory, and
22 enforcement functions that protect the public, ensure
23 compliance with applicable laws, and prevent fraud,
24 waste, and abuse; and

1 (5) harming the ability of the head of such cov-
2 ered agency to fulfill statutory and administrative
3 mandates related to the core functions of the agen-
4 cy, including those not explicitly tied to direct bene-
5 fits disbursement but integral to public service, fi-
6 nancial administration, support for State and munic-
7 ipal housing authorities, health care oversight, tax
8 administration, or the administration of veterans'
9 health care and education benefits.

10 (c) INSPECTOR GENERAL STUDY AND REPORT.—

11 With respect to each covered activity carried out by the
12 head of a covered agency, the Inspector General concerned
13 shall, not later than 1 year after the head of a covered
14 agency submits the certification required by subsection (a)
15 with respect to such activity, and one year after the head
16 of such agency carries out such activity—

17 (1) study whether carrying out such covered ac-
18 tivity has impacted the provision of services or bene-
19 fits by that covered agency in a manner described
20 under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a);
21 and

22 (2) submit a report to Congress on the results
23 of such study.

24 (d) REVERSAL OF COVERED ACTIVITY.—If an In-
25 specter General determines under the study required by

1 subsection (b) that carrying out a covered activity effected
2 the provision of services or benefits by a covered agency
3 in a manner described under paragraphs (1) through (3)
4 of subsection (a), the head of such covered agency shall
5 reverse the covered activity, including by—

6 (1) reinstating any laid-off staff; and

7 (2) reopening shuttered regional field offices.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

9 (1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term “covered
10 activity” means—

11 (A) any planned staffing cuts under which
12 the head of a covered agency expects to reduce
13 the overall staffing level of such covered agency
14 by over five percent in a single year;

15 (B) any planned regional field office clo-
16 sures under which the head of a covered agency
17 expects to reduce the overall number of regional
18 field offices of such covered agency by over five
19 percent in a single year;

20 (C) any budget reallocation, funding reces-
21 sion, or structural reorganization that would re-
22 sult in a measurable reduction in the ability of
23 the covered agency to provide timely and effec-
24 tive services, including processing claims,
25 issuing refunds or benefits, responding to public

1 inquiries, enforcing regulatory obligations, and
2 conducting outreach or compliance activities; or

3 (D) any restructuring of enforcement, in-
4 vestigatory, or regulatory activities that could
5 significantly weaken beneficiary or taxpayer
6 protections, reduce agency oversight capabili-
7 ties, or increase risks of fraud, waste, or abuse
8 in programs administered by such covered agen-
9 cy.

10 (2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
11 agency” means the following:

12 (A) The Social Security Administration.

13 (B) The Centers for Medicare and Med-
14 icaid Service.

15 (C) The Internal Revenue Service.

16 (D) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

17 (E) The Department of Housing and
18 Urban Development.

19 (3) INSPECTOR GENERAL CONCERNED.—The
20 term “Inspector General concerned” means—

21 (A) with respect to the Social Security Ad-
22 ministration, the Department of Veterans Af-
23 fairs, and the Department of Housing and
24 Urban Development, the Inspector General of
25 the applicable agency;

1 (B) with respect to the Centers for Medi-
2 care and Medicaid Services, the Inspector Gen-
3 eral of the Department of Health and Human
4 Services; and

5 (C) with respect to the Internal Revenue
6 Services, the Treasury IG for Tax Administra-
7 tion.

8 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
9 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act.

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