

119TH CONGRESS }  
*1st Session*

SENATE

{ REPORT  
119-8

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

---

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE

AND ITS

SUBCOMMITTEES

FOR THE

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS



MARCH 31, 2025.—Ordered to be printed

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

59-010

WASHINGTON : 2025

## COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

RAND PAUL, Kentucky, *Chairman*

RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin	GARY C. PETERS, Michigan
JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma	MAGGIE HASSAN, New Hampshire
RICK SCOTT, Florida	RICHARD BLUMENTAL, Connecticut
JOSH HAWLEY, Missouri	JOHN FETTERMAN, Pennsylvania
BERNIE MORENO, Ohio	ANDY KIM, New Jersey
JONI ERNST, Iowa	RUBEN GALLEGGO, Arizona
ASHLEY MOODY, Florida	ELISSA SLOTKIN, Michigan

WILLIAM E. HENDERSON III, *Staff Director*  
DAVID M. WEINBERG, *Minority Staff Director*  
LAURA W. KILBRIDE, *Chief Clerk*

---

## COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

GARY C. PETERS, Michigan, *Chairman*

THOMAS R. CARPER, Delaware	RAND PAUL, Kentucky
MAGGIE HASSAN, New Hampshire	RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin
KRYSTEN SINEMA, Arizona	JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma
JACKY ROSEN, Nevada	MITT ROMNEY, Utah
ALEX PADILLA, California <sup>1</sup>	RICK SCOTT, Florida
JON OSSOFF, Georgia	JOSH HAWLEY, Missouri
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Connecticut	ROGER MARSHALL, Kansas
LAPHONZA BUTLER, California <sup>2</sup>	

## SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE 118TH CONGRESS

### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Connecticut, *Chair*

THOMAS R. CARPER, Delaware	RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin
MAGGIE HASSAN, New Hampshire	RICK SCOTT, Florida
ALEX PADILLA, California <sup>1</sup>	JOSH HAWLEY, Missouri
JON OSSOFF, Georgia	ROGER MARSHALL, Kansas
LAPHONZA BUTLER, California <sup>2</sup>	

### EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

MAGGIE HASSAN, New Hampshire, *Chair*

KRYSTEN SINEMA, Arizona	MITT ROMNEY, Utah
JACKY ROSEN, Nevada	JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma
JON OSSOFF, Georgia	RICK SCOTT, Florida

## GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

KRYSTEN SINEMA, Arizona, *Chair*

THOMAS R. CARPER, Delaware

ALEX PADILLA, California<sup>1</sup>

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Connecticut

LAPHONZA BUTLER, California<sup>2</sup>

JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma

RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin

MITT ROMNEY, Utah

<sup>1</sup>Senator Alex Padilla served on the Committee February 3, 2021 to October 17, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Senator Laphonza Butler joined the Committee October 17, 2023 and was assigned Subcommittees on October 24, 2023.

## CONTENTS

---

	Page	
I. Highlights of Activities .....	1	
A. Investigation into the Attempted Assassination of President Donald J. Trump .....	3	
B. Supporting America's Firefighters, Fire Prevention and Response ...	4	
C. Combatting Terrorism and Violent Threats .....	6	
D. Border Security .....	8	
E. Securing Our Supply Chains .....	11	
F. Artificial Intelligence .....	13	
G. Strengthening Cybersecurity .....	17	
H. Biosecurity .....	19	
I. Member Stock Trading .....	20	
J. Improving Travel Screening Processes .....	21	
K. Improving Government Transparency and Addressing Conflicts of Interest .....	22	
L. Improving Government Efficiency and Saving Taxpayer Dollars ....	24	
M. Bolstering the Nation's Response to Disasters and Emergencies ....	29	
N. Supporting the Federal Workforce .....	31	
II. Committee Jurisdiction .....	32	
III. Bills and Resolutions Referred and Considered .....	35	
IV. Hearings .....	35	
V. Reports, Prints, and GAO Reports .....	46	
VI. Official Communications .....	65	
VII. Legislative Actions .....	65	
A. Measures Enacted Into Law .....	65	
B. Postal Naming Bills .....	73	
VIII. Activities of the Subcommittees .....	79	
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS (PSI)		
I. Historical Background .....	79	
A. Subcommittee Jurisdiction .....	79	
B. Subcommittee Investigations .....	81	
II. Subcommittee Hearings During the 118th Congress .....	88	
III. Legislation Activities During the 118th Congress .....	98	
IV. Reports .....	99	
V. GAO Reports .....	115	
EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT (ETSO)		
I. Historical Background .....	116	
A. Subcommittee Jurisdiction .....	116	
B. Subcommittee Chairs .....	116	
C. 117th Congress .....	116	
D. 118th Congress .....	116	
II. Subcommittee Hearings During the 118th Congress .....	117	
III. GAO Reports .....	121	
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (GOVOPS)		
I. Historical Background .....	122	
A. Jurisdiction .....	122	

	Page
B. Subcommittee Chairs .....	122
C. 117th Congress .....	122
D. 118th Congress .....	122
II. Subcommittee Hearings During the 118th Congress .....	123
III. Legislation .....	124
IV. GAO Reports .....	124



119TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
119–8

---

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND  
SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

---

MARCH 31, 2025.—Ordered to be printed

---

Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

This report reviews the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and its Subcommittees during the 118th Congress. These activities were conducted pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended; by Rule XXV(k) of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and by additional authorizing resolutions of the Senate. See Section II, “Committee Jurisdiction,” for details.

U.S. Senator Gary C. Peters was Chairman of the Committee during the 118th Congress; Senator Rand Paul was the Ranking Member.

Major activities of the Committee during the 118th Congress included an investigation into the July 13 assassination attempt of President Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, as well as oversight and legislation involving fire safety grants; combatting terrorism; border security; prescription drugs; government efficiency and transparency; artificial intelligence; cybersecurity; disaster preparedness; biosecurity and the federal workforce. Discussion of these major activities appears in Section I below; additional information on these and other measures appears in Section VII, “Legislative Actions.”

Extensive information about the Committee’s history, hearings, legislation, documents, Subcommittees, and other matters is available at the website, <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>.

I. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

During the 118th Congress, Chairman Gary C. Peters and Ranking Member Rand Paul led the Committee to collaboratively address longstanding challenges to the nation’s security, as well as strengthen the effectiveness of the federal government.

Under Chairman Peters' leadership, the Committee authored and enacted bipartisan legislation to strengthen our national security and passed long overdue reforms to ensure that the federal government can effectively serve the American people for years to come.

To ensure our nation is better prepared to address emerging homeland security threats, the Committee examined current and rapidly evolving potential threats, including bioterrorism, cyber-attacks, terrorism and natural disasters. The Committee led oversight efforts and passed bipartisan legislation to protect critical infrastructure from persistent and complex cyber-attacks, harden our defenses against the threat of domestic and foreign terrorism, and improve the federal response to disasters and emergencies, including public health emergencies.

The Committee also led efforts to improve government accountability and ensure federal agencies are effectively serving the American people. Notably, Chairman Peters worked with Ranking Member Paul and other members of the House and the Senate to author and enact bipartisan legislation to increase transparency in government, ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars, and support the federal workforce in their mission to serve Americans across the country.

Finally, Chairman Peters utilized the Committee's role as the Senate's chief oversight body to issue seven comprehensive investigative reports. This included a bipartisan report authored with Ranking Member Paul and U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Ron Johnson, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, on the United State Secret Service's failures that contributed to an assassination attempt on former President Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, a report on the intelligence failures by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) that contributed to the January 6th, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, a report on FBI's and DHS's failure to effectively track and report data on the domestic terrorism threat, a report on ballooning watchlisting and travel screening practices related to travelers, a report on drug shortages, and a report on hedge funds' use of artificial intelligence.

During the 118th Congress, the Committee held 37 hearings to identify, discuss, and assess bipartisan solutions to address national security threats and improve government operations. The Committee also advanced 186 bills and 68 post office naming bills to the Senate floor. Chairman Peters authored and introduced 72 of those bills. In total, the Committee helped enact 96 standalone laws, including 11 authored by Chairman Peters, and helped secure several critical provisions as a part of larger government funding bills or legislative packages. The Committee also helped confirm 22 of President Biden's nominees to lead the federal government and implement the Administration's priorities. Under Chairman Peters' leadership, the Committee showed that by working on a bipartisan basis, Congress can come together to solve significant problems, protect our national security and ensure the federal government is operating efficiently and effectively.



## A. INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

On July 13, 2024, Thomas Matthew Crooks bought 50 rounds of ammunition on his way to Butler, Pennsylvania, drove to President Donald J. Trump's campaign rally at the Butler Farm Show grounds, and climbed onto the roof of the American Glass Research (AGR) building less than 200 yards away from where the President was speaking. At 6:11 pm, he fired eight rounds from an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle, killing one person and injuring three others including the former President.<sup>1</sup> That day, he was able to fly a drone 200 yards from the site, use a rangefinder capable of gauging the distance to the former President less than an hour before he began speaking, and bring two explosive devices within proximity of the site of the rally.<sup>2</sup> The United States Secret Service's (USSS) planning, communications, intelligence sharing, and related security failures in advance of and during July 13 directly contributed to Crooks' ability to carry out the assassination attempt and kill and injure people in Butler, PA that day.

On July 15, 2024, Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Paul announced their investigation into the assassination attempt on President Trump and called for a briefing and public hearing within 15 days.<sup>3</sup> On July 24 and 25, 2024, Chairmen Peters and Blumenthal and Ranking Members Paul and Johnson sent ten letters requesting documents and information to the USSS, FBI, DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Beaver County District Attorney, Butler County District Attorney, Butler County Sheriff, Butler Township Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), and Clairton Sportsmen's Club as well as a letter requesting voluntary transcribed interviews with USSS individuals responsible for planning and security on July 13.<sup>4</sup> Then, on July 25, 2024, Acting USSS Director Rowe and FBI National Security Branch Executive Assistant Director Wells provided a closed-door unclassified briefing for HSGAC and Judiciary Committee Members.<sup>5</sup>

On July 30, 2024, Ronald L. Rowe, Jr., the Acting Director of the USSS, and Paul Abbate, the FBI Deputy Director, testified in a joint hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and Judiciary Committee. Acting Director Rowe testified that the attempted assassination "was a failure on multiple levels."<sup>6</sup> He further testified before the committees that he had since initiated several reforms to address clear deficiencies in how USSS provides security for its protectees.<sup>7</sup> During

<sup>1</sup> Interim Joint Bipartisan Staff Report, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee & Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, *Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt*, (September 25, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, and Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Briefing with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on the Judiciary (July 25, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> *Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Opening Statement of U.S. Secret Service Acting Director Ronald Rowe, Hearing on Examination of the Security Failures Leading to the Assassination Attempt on Former President Trump*, 118th Cong. (July 30, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

the July 30 hearing, Acting Director Rowe acknowledged USSS responsibility for protecting former President Trump.<sup>8</sup> In a series of transcribed interviews conducted by bipartisan staff for HSGAC and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, key USSS personnel responsible for planning, coordinating, communicating, and securing the Butler, PA rally on July 13, declined to acknowledge individual areas of responsibility for planning or security as having contributed to the failure to prevent the shooting that day, even when as an agency, the USSS acknowledged ultimate responsibility for the failure to prevent the former president of the United States from being shot.<sup>9</sup>

On August 13, 2024, the Committee began a series of transcribed interviews with USSS personnel. To date, Committee staff have examined over 2,800 pages of documents provided by USSS and conducted 12 transcribed interviews with USSS personnel responsible for the planning and security in Butler, PA on July 13, 2024.

On September 25, 2024, the Committee released an interim report on the assassination attempt investigation.<sup>10</sup> The interim report detailed USSS failures in planning, communications, security, and allocation of resources for the July 13, 2024 Butler rally were foreseeable, preventable, and directly related to the events resulting in the assassination attempt that day. Additionally, it discussed that siloed communications and coordination problems between federal, state, and local law enforcement officials were a contributing factor to the failures at the July 13 Butler rally. The interim report also made key recommendations to address these failures, including designating a single individual responsible for approving all security plans, requiring USSS to identify clearly defined roles and responsibilities for USSS personnel, improving communications between USSS personnel and state and local law enforcement, and that USSS protection plans should be determined based on the threat to the protectee, not their position or title.<sup>11</sup>

## B. SUPPORTING AMERICA'S FIREFIGHTERS, FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

During the 118th Congress, more than 160 firefighters across the United States died while on-duty,<sup>12</sup> wildfires burned more than 8 million acres of land,<sup>13</sup> and more than 4,200 home fire fatalities were reported.<sup>14</sup> In response, Chairman Peters led efforts to ensure local fire departments have the necessary resources to continue

<sup>8</sup> *Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Testimony of U.S. Secret Service Acting Director Ronald Rowe, Hearing on Examination of the Security Failures Leading to the Assassination Attempt on Former President Trump*, 118th Cong. (July 30, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Secret Service, Transcribed Interviews with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/investigation-of-u-s-secret-service-planning-and-security-failures-related-to-the-july-13-2024-assassination-attempt/>.

<sup>10</sup> *Interim Joint Bipartisan Staff Report, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee & Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt*, (Sept. 25, 2024).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Fire Administration, *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States (2023–2024)*, <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>13</sup> NOAA National Centers For Environmental Information (NCEI), *Annual 2024 Wildfires Report*, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/monthly-report/fire/202413>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Fire Administration, *Home Fire Fatalities in the News*, <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/civilian-fatalities?startDate=2023-01-03&endDate=2024-12-31>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

protecting their communities and responding effectively to emergencies. Under his leadership, the Committee held a hearing on the increasing wildfire threat and passed bipartisan legislation to support firefighters.<sup>15</sup>

Chairman Peters led the introduction of the *Fire Grants and Safety Act of 2023* along with U.S. Senators Susan Collins, Tom Carper, and Lisa Murkowski. The bipartisan legislation, which was signed into law on July 9, 2024, reauthorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). These programs are used by local fire departments to address staffing needs, purchase equipment, develop fire training and education programs, and improve emergency medical services. The law ensures that local fire departments have the necessary resources to continue protecting their communities and responding effectively to emergencies.<sup>16</sup>

The SAFER program provides grants from FEMA to career, volunteer, and combination local fire departments for the purpose of increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry-minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.<sup>17</sup> The AFG program provides grants from FEMA to local fire departments and unaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations to help address a variety of equipment, training, and other firefighter-related and EMS needs.<sup>18</sup> USFA's mission is to provide leadership, coordination, and support for the nation's fire prevention and control, fire training and education, and emergency medical services activities, and to prepare first responders and health care leaders to react to hazard and terrorism emergencies of all kinds.<sup>19</sup> One of USFA's key objectives is to significantly reduce the nation's loss of life from fire, while also achieving a reduction in property loss and nonfatal injury due to fire. They work to achieve this through data collection, research, trainings, and public education.<sup>20</sup>

Chairman Peters, along with U.S. Senator Mike Rounds, also introduced the bipartisan *Fire Management Assistance Grants for Tribal Governments Act* to require FEMA to accept Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) requests directly from Tribal governments that are affected by a fire. Currently, FEMA can accept Emergency and Major Disaster Declaration requests from Tribal governments, but the agency is not authorized to accept FMAG requests directly from Tribes. This limitation impedes Tribes' capacity to access federal resources for wildfire management directly and undermines Tribal independence by forcing them to work through state governments rather than having the option

<sup>15</sup>Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on A Nation on Fire: Responding to the Increasing Wildfire Threat*, 118th Cong. (March 14, 2024).

<sup>16</sup>S. 559/S. 4882/S. 870 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118-67; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters, Collins, Carper & Murkowski Bipartisan Legislation to Extend Federal Support for Local Fire Departments Signed into Law*, (July 9, 2024).

<sup>17</sup>Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)*. <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>18</sup>Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Assistance to Firefighters Grants* <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>19</sup>U.S. Fire Administration, *About the U.S. Fire Administration*. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/about>, (accessed Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*

to interact directly with federal authorities for this specific type of assistance.<sup>21</sup> The legislation passed the Committee on July 31, 2024, and passed the Senate on December 17, 2024.

### C. COMBATting TERRORISM AND VIOLENT THREATS

Terrorism and extremist violence continue to be persistent and evolving threats to our homeland security. According to the Department of Homeland Security, threats posed by domestic and foreign terrorism remain high.<sup>22</sup> Domestic extremists killed at least 17 people in the U.S. in seven separate instances in 2023.<sup>23</sup> Additionally, several attacks carried out by domestic violent extremists took place in 2024.<sup>24</sup>

During the 118th Congress, Chairman Peters led the Committee's oversight and legislative work to ensure the federal government is better prepared to fight terrorism and extremist violence threats. Chairman Peters introduced the *Offices of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Security Act of 2023* to strengthen the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office within in DHS.<sup>25</sup> The CWMD Office's mission is to defend against threats from weapons of mass destruction—which include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons have the potential to cause everything from mass casualties and incapacitation to agricultural destruction, and other serious disruptions to our economic and national security. In particular, biological agents, including anthrax and ricin, have been used in attacks on Americans. The bipartisan legislation also codified responsibilities for the Office of Health Security, including oversight of all medical and workplace safety missions across DHS.<sup>26</sup> The Committee passed the bill in June 2023. Despite bipartisan support for the legislation, the authorization for the CWMD Office expired on December 21, 2023, due to some Republican opposition.<sup>27</sup>

Chairman Peters also introduced a bipartisan bill, along with U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Carper, and James Lankford, to help secure chemical facilities against terrorist attacks.<sup>28</sup> The senators' *Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act* to extend the vital anti-terrorism the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program,

<sup>21</sup> S. 4654 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–237. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Mike Rounds: *Peters and Rounds Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Authorize FEMA to Accept Tribal Government Requests for Fire Management Assistance Grants*, (July 18, 2024).

<sup>22</sup> Department Of Homeland Security, *DHS' 2025 Homeland Threat Assessment Indicates the Threat of Domestic and Foreign Terrorism in the Homeland Remains High*, <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2024/10/02/dhs-2025-homeland-threat-assessment-indicates-threat-domestic-and-foreign-terrorism>, (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>23</sup> Anti-Defamation League, *Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2023*, <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/murder-and-extremism-united-states-2023>, (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>24</sup> Department of Homeland Security, *Homeland Threat Assessment 2025*, [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24\\_0930\\_ia\\_24-320-ia-publication-2025-ha-final-30sep24-508.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24_0930_ia_24-320-ia-publication-2025-ha-final-30sep24-508.pdf), (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>25</sup> S. 1798 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–124. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Cornyn: *Peters & Cornyn Introduce Bill to Protect Americans from Weapons of Mass Destruction*, (Dec. 13, 2023).

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Ellen M. Gilmer, *Turmoil in Congress Imperils Mass Threat Detection Team's Future*, Bloomberg Government, (Oct. 10, 2023).

<sup>28</sup> S. 2499/S. 2178 (118th Cong.). Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Carper and James Lankford: *Peters, Capito, Carper & Lankford Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Help Secure Chemical Facilities Against Terrorist Attacks*, (June 23, 2025).

which was created after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the Oklahoma City bombing, ensures that facilities holding high-risk chemicals have security measures in place to reduce the risk of chemicals being stolen or weaponized by terrorists. Although the CFATS program has been extended with bipartisan support by Congress four times—including most recently in 2020 through efforts led by Peters, Lankford and Carper,<sup>29</sup> the authorization for the program expired in July 2023 due to some Republican opposition.<sup>30</sup>

Chairman Peters also introduced and passed into law bipartisan legislation to improve security for federal employees and members of the public who visit federal buildings.<sup>31</sup> More than 9,000 federal facilities hosting 1.4 million employees and countless visitors are protected by Federal Protective Service (FPS) within DHS.<sup>32</sup> Federal facilities face a wide range of threats, including active shooters, cyber-attacks, hostile surveillance, and improvised explosive devices. The law requires federal agencies to respond to the recommendations on security measures issued within 90 days. The law also requires DHS to develop a method to monitor the responses to FPS security assessments and take reasonable actions to ensure agency responses, holding agencies accountable to adopting sound, defensible security decisions.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to taking steps to better protect against violent threats at federal buildings, Chairman Peters also passed bipartisan legislation out of the Senate to better protect federal buildings from unauthorized access.<sup>34</sup> The bill would require the federal government to assess whether property located near federally leased space could provide opportunities for espionage attempts, cyber-attacks, or other unauthorized access and ensure that there is government-wide guidance for agencies to ensure spaces located near high-security leased federal properties do not pose a threat to the safety and security of sensitive materials.<sup>35</sup>

## JANUARY 6TH INTELLIGENCE FAILURES REPORT

On January 6, 2021, thousands of extremists attempting to obstruct the Joint Session of Congress to certify the 2020 Presidential Election committed a violent and unprecedented attack on the U.S. Capitol Building, threatening the security of the Vice President, Members of Congress, and staff. During this attack, rioters threatened and assaulted law enforcement officers, broke into the Capitol and Senate chamber, vandalized and stole property, and ransacked offices.<sup>36</sup>

Building on the work Chairman Peters led in the 117th Congress to investigate the initial security, planning, and response failures

<sup>29</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford and Tom Carper: Peters, Lankford & Carper Bipartisan Bill to Extend Critical Counterterrorism Program Signed Into Law, (July 24, 2020).

<sup>30</sup> Justin Doubleday, *CISA Faces ‘Significant Concerns’ Over Losing Chemical Security Staff During Reauthorization Stalemate*, Federal News Network, (Aug. 30, 2023).

<sup>31</sup> S. 3613 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118–157.

<sup>32</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Rick Scott: Senate Passes Peters and Scott Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Federal Building Security, (March 26, 2024).

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> S. 1868 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–82.

<sup>35</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Rick Scott, *Committee Passes Peters and Scott Bipartisan Bill to Help Secure Federal Facilities from Unauthorized Access*, (June 14, 2023).

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

related to the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Peters continued to investigate and released a majority staff report on the intelligence failures in the lead up to the attack.<sup>37</sup> The report found that the FBI and the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) received numerous tips and were aware of significant online posts threatening violence at the Capitol. Despite the significant volume of open source intelligence indicating the day could turn violent, the report found that those agencies failed to fully and accurately assess the severity of the threat, and failed to communicate adequate warnings to law enforcement partners.<sup>38</sup>

The Chairman's investigation found that in lieu of formal intelligence products, FBI communicated intelligence to its partners informally while downplaying the severity of the threat. Additionally, this investigation found that part of the reason FBI failed to take more action to warn its federal partners and the public was because it failed to seriously consider the possibility that threatened actions would actually be carried out, and it dismissed each individual threat as not credible in isolation but failed to fully consider the totality of threats and violent rhetoric associated with such a contentious event.<sup>39</sup>

#### D. BORDER SECURITY

The federal government must have the personnel, tools and resources necessary to secure our nation's borders. These efforts are critical to our national and economic security. In the 118th Congress, the Committee held hearings, conducted oversight and advanced legislation related to border security. Chairman Peters led many of these legislative efforts, including bipartisan bills to improve security at the Northern Border, hire additional border security personnel, address the flow of fentanyl across the borders, and prevent human trafficking.

Although much of the nation's attention is appropriately focused on the challenges at the Southern Border, the Northern Border faces unique security challenges that must also be addressed. For example, two of our nation's busiest border crossings are in Michigan along the Northern Border, and border states rely on safe and efficient travel and trade through ports of entry to maintain their status as hubs of international commerce. As a Senator representing Michigan, Chairman Peters has long focused on addressing the needs of Northern Border states.

In July 2023, Chairman Peters introduced bipartisan legislation to the Committee that would require the DHS to establish a Northern Border Mission Center (originally named the Northern Border Coordination Center) to serve as a training location for personnel, act as a testing ground for border security technology, and to support counter-unmanned aircraft systems along the Northern Border.<sup>40</sup> The Center is charged with supporting DHS's ongoing work to address the evolving threats and challenges the Department faces, including the bi-directional flow of illicit drugs, like fentanyl,

<sup>37</sup> Majority Staff Report, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Planned In Plain Sight: A Review Of The Intelligence Failures In Advance Of January 6th, 2021*, (June 27, 2023).

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> S. 2291 (118th Cong.). Included as a provision in H.R. 2670 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118–31.

and other contraband, as well as human smuggling and trafficking. The Center is to be collocated with an existing U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters, an Air and Marine Operations Branch, and a U.S. Coast Guard air station, and other existing DHS activities at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan.<sup>41</sup> In March 2024, Chairman Peters secured \$3 million to establish and operate the Northern Border Mission Center.<sup>42</sup>

Illegal drugs smuggled and sold in the United States, including fentanyl, remain one of the deadliest threats to communities in the United States.<sup>43</sup> The vast majority of fentanyl in the United States is smuggled through ports of entry along the Southern Border. According to data from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), nearly 90 percent of fentanyl seizures happen at ports of entry.<sup>44</sup> In fiscal year 2024, CBP's use of non-intrusive inspection systems led to the seizure of over 100,000 pounds of narcotics.<sup>45</sup> Chairman Peters has emphasized the need for DHS to prioritize investments in technologies to combat fentanyl smuggling, including non-intrusive inspection (NII) equipment. In May 2023, Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Josh Hawley reintroduced the *Enhancing DHS Drug Seizures Act*, bipartisan legislation to require DHS to efficiently use existing resources and expand available tools to stop the flow of narcotics into the country.<sup>46</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator John Cornyn also introduced the bipartisan *Non-Intrusive Inspection Expansion Act* to improve vehicle and cargo screening at ports of entry.<sup>47</sup> Non-intrusive inspection systems have enabled frontline CBP Officers to detect and seize narcotics, as well as other undeclared and prohibited goods, like certain pork products, that could cost American companies revenue and jobs and pose risks to American agriculture.<sup>48</sup> Congress provided CBP with \$520 million for non-intrusive inspection systems in 2019 and has provided increased resources since then—including \$87 million as a part of the government funding legislation that was signed into law in 2022. The *Non-Intrusive Inspection Expansion Act* would ensure CBP is utilizing the tools Congress has provided to increase scanning rates at ports of entry to at least 40 percent of passenger vehicles and at least 90 percent of commercial vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry by the end of fiscal year 2026, an achievable benchmark.<sup>49</sup>

CBP also faces ongoing shortages of Officers to effectively staff ports of entry. To help address this issue, the Committee advanced in April 2023 Chairman Peters' bipartisan legislation to require

<sup>41</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Provision to Support Northern Border Security Operations to be Signed Into Law*, (Dec. 18, 2024).

<sup>42</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Secures Funding to Establish Center to Coordinate Northern Border Security*, (March 23, 2024).

<sup>43</sup> Department of Homeland Security, *Homeland Threat Assessment 2025*, [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24\\_0930\\_ia\\_24-320-ia-publication-2025-hta-final-30sep24-508.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24_0930_ia_24-320-ia-publication-2025-hta-final-30sep24-508.pdf), (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>44</sup> Customs and Border Protection, *Drug Seizure Statistics*, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>, (Accessed Feb. 21, 2025).

<sup>45</sup> Customs and Border Protection, *FY 2023 CBP Travel Sheet*, [https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/cbp\\_fy\\_2023\\_travel\\_fact\\_sheet\\_06.2024.pdf](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/cbp_fy_2023_travel_fact_sheet_06.2024.pdf) (accessed Feb. 21, 2025).

<sup>46</sup> S. 1464 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–104. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Josh Hawley: *Peters and Hawley Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Bolster DHS Efforts to Detect and Seize Illicit Drugs*, (May 4, 2023).

<sup>47</sup> S. 1822 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–105.

<sup>48</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Cornyn: *Peters and Cornyn Bipartisan Bill to Increase Screening of Vehicles and Cargo at Ports of Entry Advances in the Senate*, (June 14, 2025).

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

CBP to hire additional personnel to meet staffing needs. The *Securing America's Ports of Entry Act* would fully staff America's airports, seaports and land ports of entry by requiring CBP to hire no less than 600 additional officers a year until the agency's staffing needs are met.<sup>50</sup> In addition to hiring more CBP officers, the bill also authorizes the annual hiring of mission support staff and technicians to perform non-law enforcement functions in support of CBP. These professionals will allow CBP officers to focus their efforts on law enforcement priorities, such as preventing drug trafficking, while supporting lawful international commerce through the nation's ports of entry.<sup>51</sup>

To further support CBP Officers, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters' and U.S. Senator Josh Hawley's bipartisan legislation CBP Officers can receive the retirement benefits they were promised when starting their service.<sup>52</sup> The *U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Retirement Technical Corrections Act* corrects a mistake where CBP incorrectly informed newly hired CBP Officers that they would be eligible for proportional annuity, which means they would not have to retire at a certain age or reach 20 years of service to qualify for an enhanced retirement benefit. CBP realized their error more than ten years after these Officers had started their service and rescinded these benefits. CBP will now require at least 1,352 Officers to meet additional requirements to receive the benefits they were initially promised when starting the job more than a decade ago. This has significantly impacted CBP Officers' ability to properly plan for their futures and ensure they can retire comfortably with the benefits they expected. The bill would direct CBP to identify eligible individuals and notify them of the correction. Those impacted would then be eligible for a correction that would align their retirement benefits with the coverage they were promised. The legislation also includes a retroactive annuity adjustment for eligible individuals who retire before the date of enactment of this bill and grants the Department of Homeland Security the authority to waive maximum entry age requirements for eligible officers.<sup>53</sup>

To help further secure U.S. land and maritime borders, address homeland security threats, and establish regional operations to tackle ongoing homeland security challenges like drug smuggling and trafficking, Chairman Peters passed a bill into law to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Joint Task Forces (JTF) authority.<sup>54</sup> Congress codified DHS Joint Task Forces as part of its yearly National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in fiscal year 2017. DHS currently uses this authority through its Joint Task Force-East, which works to strengthen coordination of U.S. government agencies as well as international partners to combat transnational criminal organizations and address maritime migration. The *DHS Joint Task Force Reauthorization Act* would extend

<sup>50</sup> S. 1252 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–290. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Cornyn: *Peters and Cornyn Bipartisan Bill Address Staffing Shortages at Ports of Entry Advances in the Senate*, (July 27, 2023).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> S. 311 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–101.

<sup>53</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Josh Hawley: *Peters & Hawley Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Correct Retirement Error for Customs and Border Protection Officers*, (Feb. 9, 2023).

<sup>54</sup> S. 4698. (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118–103.



the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish and operate Joint Task Forces for two more years.<sup>55</sup>

The Committee also took legislative actions to address the scourge of human trafficking. Thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked in the United States every year.<sup>56</sup> According to DHS, traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. Based on calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the Polaris Project found that in 2021 there were at least 16,554 sex trafficking victims and survivors in the United States.<sup>57</sup> To enhance the Department of Homeland Security's ability to combat human trafficking, Chairman Peters passed bipartisan legislation into law, the *IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act* to make permanent and expand the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma (IMPACTT) Program within Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) that provides outreach and training to investigators, forensic interviewers, victim assistance specialists, task force officers, and other partners who have been exposed to trauma while working with victims of human trafficking.<sup>58</sup> The law also requires HSI to provide training, through the program, to these employees on available resources to help cope with burnout, compassion fatigue, and trauma. It also makes permanent and expands the HSI Victim Assistance Program that provides guidance on victim assistance, including training and technical assistance, and monitors compliance with federal crime victim statutes.<sup>59</sup>

## E. SECURING OUR SUPPLY CHAINS

During the 118th Congress, the Committee took steps to address vulnerabilities in key supply chains, specifically to reduce America's dependence on foreign suppliers for critical minerals and pharmaceuticals.

Shortages of critical medications continue to rise, including drugs used in hospital emergency rooms and to treat cancer, prescription medications, and even common over-the-counter treatments like children's cold and flu medicine. The number of active drug shortages in the U.S. reached a peak of 295 at the end of 2022.<sup>60</sup> Drug shortages are caused by a number of factors, including economic drivers, insufficient supply chain visibility, and a continued U.S. overreliance on both foreign and geographically concentrated suppliers for medications and their raw materials. These shortages have cascading effects on patient care, causing delays in treatment, increasing the risk of medication errors, and requiring the use of less effective alternative treatments. Hospitals have also experi-

<sup>55</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Bill to Extend Department of Homeland Security Joint Task Forces Authority Signed into Law*, (Oct. 1, 2024).

<sup>56</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford, and John Cornyn: *Peters, Lankford, & Cornyn Bipartisan Legislation to Increase Support for Victims of Human Trafficking Signed into Law*, (Oct. 7, 2024).

<sup>57</sup> Polaris Project, *Polaris Analysis of 2021 Data From the National Human Trafficking Hotline*, [polaris-analysis-of-2021-data-from-the-national-human-trafficking-hotline.pdf](https://polaris-project.org/polaris-analysis-of-2021-data-from-the-national-human-trafficking-hotline.pdf), (accessed Feb 21, 2025).

<sup>58</sup> S. 670 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118-96.

<sup>59</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford, and John Cornyn: *Peters, Lankford, & Cornyn Bipartisan Legislation to Increase Support for Victims of Human Trafficking Signed into Law*, (Oct. 7, 2024).

<sup>60</sup> Majority Staff Report, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Short Supply: The Health and National Security Risks of Drug Shortages*, (March 22, 2023).

enced increased costs, medication waste, and limited staffing capacity to address and remedy shortages.<sup>61</sup>

Chairman Peters investigated and released a report detailing the significant health and national security risks of these ongoing drug shortages.<sup>62</sup> Peters' report found that drug shortages, as well as a lack of transparency into our pharmaceutical supply chains, present an ongoing national security risk and have made it harder for health care professionals to treat patients. The findings build on a 2019 report Peters released that identified serious health and national security risks created by drug shortages and an overdependence on foreign pharmaceutical supply chains.<sup>63</sup> Chairman Peters' work on this issue has identified that our nation's reliance on foreign suppliers—mostly in China and India—for the raw materials needed to make medications has only continued to grow. A 2021 DOD Inspector General report found that the U.S. military also relies on foreign sources, including adversaries like China, to purchase drugs, but DOD failed to conduct a formal risk assessment. Following the release of the report, Chairman Peters convened a full committee hearing to discuss its findings and recommendations, the impact that drug shortages have had on Americans, and additional actions that lawmakers can take to solve this problem.<sup>64</sup> To help address this overreliance, Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Joni Ernst introduced the bipartisan *Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Risk Assessment Act* to require the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a comprehensive assessment of pharmaceutical supply chain vulnerabilities and related national security risks, as well as develop plans to reduce our nation's reliance on foreign nations for critical drugs.<sup>65</sup>

Under Chairman Peters' leadership, the Committee also worked to address our nation's overreliance on foreign suppliers of critical minerals. Critical minerals and rare earth metals are used to manufacture electric vehicle batteries, military equipment, and other technology that is vital to American economic competitiveness and homeland security. China remains the largest source for more than half of the critical minerals on the U.S. Geological Survey's 2022 list that the United States imports, such as lithium and cobalt.<sup>66</sup> Chairman Peters, along with U.S. Senators Mitt Romney and James Lankford, introduced and passed in the Senate the bipartisan *Intergovernmental Critical Minerals Task Force Act* to address this overreliance by creating a presidential task force with representatives from federal agencies who must consult with state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to determine how to ad-

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Report Finds Continued Shortages of Medications Present Significant Health and National Security Risk*, (March 22, 2023).

<sup>63</sup> Minority Staff Report, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *A Price Too High: Cost, Supply, and Security Threats to Affordable Prescription Drugs*, (Dec. 6, 2019).

<sup>64</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Drug Shortage Health and National Security Risks: Underlying Causes and Needed Reforms*, 118th Cong. (March 22, 2023) (S. Hrg. 118–56).

<sup>65</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Joni Ernst: *Peters and Ernst Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Further Examine National Security Risks Posed by Reliance on High-Risk Foreign Suppliers for Critical Medications*, (July 16, 2024).

<sup>66</sup> U.S. Geological Survey Press Release, U.S. Geological Survey Releases 2022 List of Critical Minerals, (Feb. 22, 2022), <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/us-geological-survey-releases-2022-list-critical-minerals>, (accessed Feb. 24, 2025).

dress national security risks associated with America’s critical mineral supply chains.<sup>67</sup> The task force would also identify new domestic opportunities for mining, processing, refinement, reuse, and recycling of critical minerals.<sup>68</sup>

The Committee also sought to improve the effectiveness of the Federal Acquisition Security Council (FASC) and increase its oversight responsibilities to better address supply chain threats from foreign adversaries. Foreign adversaries often use private sector companies to hide or obfuscate their connections with the products, allowing potential security vulnerabilities to enter protected supply chains.<sup>69</sup> Although the FASC is charged with evaluating risks in our information and communications technology supply chains and making recommendations to block the use of technologies or products that pose a threat to our national security, since its creation in 2018, the FASC has not issued a single order despite a multitude of ongoing supply chain risks.<sup>70</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Mike Rounds introduced the bipartisan *Federal Acquisition Security Council Improvement Act* to improve the FASC by transferring leadership responsibility from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD), which is better positioned to lead efforts to address national security threats in our information and communications technology supply chain.<sup>71</sup> The bill also expands FASC membership to include the State Department and the ONCD, which was created after the FASC was established. The legislation also creates a process for Congress to issue designated orders that direct the FASC to investigate sources of concerns that Congress deems a potential threat to national security. Once the FASC investigates and if they find evidence of security concerns with an entity, they would be authorized to issue orders requiring a product or company to be banned from purchase by the federal government.

## F. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in government, industry, and civil society, has led to the rapid growth of advanced technology in virtually every sector, transforming millions of Americans lives across our country. From the development of lifesaving drugs and advanced manufacturing to helping businesses and governments better serve the public, to self-driving vehicles that will improve mobility and make our roads safer, AI certainly holds great promise. This rapidly evolving technology also presents potential risks that could impact our safety, our privacy, and our economic and national security. Under the leadership of Chairman Peters during the 118th Congress, the Committee held hearings, led investigations, and passed legislation to ensure that government is harnessing the benefits and opportunities of AI, while examining the risks and challenges posed by the technology and instituting necessary safeguards.

<sup>67</sup> S. 1871 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–93. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Mitt Romney and James Lankford: *Senate Passes Peters, Romney, and Lankford Bipartisan Bill to Reduce Dependence on China and Other Adversarial Nations for Critical Minerals*, (Sept. 19, 2024).

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Mike Rounds: *Peters and Rounds Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Better Address Supply Chain Threats from Foreign Adversaries*, (Nov. 19, 2024).

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>71</sup> S. 5310 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–296.

In 2023, Chairman Peters convened three hearings to examine the procurement and use of artificial intelligence in federal government and what safeguards are needed to ensure the advancement and adoption of AI is done safely and responsibly. In March, Peters convened a hearing to investigate the transformative potential of AI, examine how AI affects our nation's competitiveness on a global stage, and discuss ways to ensure that these technologies are implemented in a way that respects civil rights and civil liberties.<sup>72</sup> Witnesses highlighted the opportunities associated with AI, while expressing their concerns over the sometimes limited transparency of their developers' algorithms, and how lack of oversight could lead to algorithmic bias, unforeseen workplace impacts, and public distrust. The discussion covered existing laws, necessary reforms, and the importance of oversight to ensure the responsible use of this promising technology. Finally, with foreign adversaries like the Chinese government prioritizing investments in these technologies, Peters stressed the need for Congress to ensure the federal government has the talent, training, and technology required to maintain the United States' global leadership on AI.<sup>73</sup>

Chairman Peters convened a follow-up hearing in May focusing on the federal government's use of artificial intelligence.<sup>74</sup> The Committee sought to examine how AI can be used by federal agencies to improve efficiency while making sure that agencies are deploying these systems responsibly. At this hearing, Peters discussed the need to increase transparency around the government's use of AI to mitigate the risks associated with these technologies. He also raised concerns about how to ensure personal and sensitive information stored by AI applications is secure and used appropriately to avoid any harms to Americans' privacy. Peters highlighted the need to ensure the federal workforce has the skills and training to ensure AI systems are benefitting all Americans. The witnesses explored how agencies can ensure the effectiveness and accuracy of AI algorithms before deploying them, and whether agencies should be required to follow certain standards as the federal government continues to acquire additional tools that utilize AI.

In June, Chairman Peters released a report examining how hedge funds use artificial intelligence to inform trading decisions and the potential impacts it could have on market stability.<sup>75</sup> The report found the advancement of AI is outpacing the work of regulators, who have only recently begun to examine how AI is used in their respective industries and how current regulations may apply to the use of AI. The report also found a lack of baseline standards to ensure these systems do not produce unintended risks. As more hedge funds use AI for increasingly diverse and more advanced purposes, the report found that associated risks within the financial services sector could increase without sufficient baseline re-

<sup>72</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Artificial Intelligence: Risks and Opportunities*, 118th Cong. (March 8, 2023) (S. Hrg. 118-25).

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>74</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Artificial Intelligence in Government*, 118th Cong. (May 16, 2023).

<sup>75</sup> Majority Staff Report, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *AI in the Real World: Hedge Funds' Use of Artificial Intelligence in Trading*, (June 2024); Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Report Finds Hedge Funds Use of AI in Trading Decisions Without Sufficient Guardrails Increases Risks to Investors and Financial Markets*, (June 14, 2024).

quirements and safeguards. The investigation identifies needed reforms to mitigate current gaps in protocols and to update existing requirements to ensure hedge funds are safely adopting evolving technologies. While the report's focus is on the use of AI by hedge funds, the risks identified in this report represent concerns applicable across the financial services sector.

Following the release of this Committee report, Chairman Peters convened a third hearing on artificial intelligence in September to examine how government will purchase AI technologies, and how the standards and guardrails government sets for these tools will shape their development and use across all industries.<sup>76</sup> During the hearing, Peters discussed the importance of using AI models to provide more efficient services to Americans and automate routine tasks to enhance, but not replace, the federal workforce. The hearing explored what the current AI procurement processes looks like, what should be prioritized when evaluating possible systems, and what agencies must do to ensure taxpayer money is spent effectively on these technologies. Peters emphasized the need for continuing oversight into the deployment of AI systems and to evaluate these systems throughout the procurement process to ensure the data used for testing is secure and protected. Peters also highlighted the power of federal acquisition and procurement processes to shape transparent and responsible standards that could be reflected in the private sector.

In response to information learned during these hearings, Chairman Peters introduced relevant legislation to guide the federal government's adoption of AI technologies. Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Thom Tillis introduced the bipartisan *Promoting Responsible Evaluation and Procurement to Advance Readiness for Enterprise-wide Deployment for Artificial Intelligence Act (PREPARED For AI Act)* to establish guardrails to ensure the federal government can harness the potential of AI systems, while safeguarding against potential risks and harms.<sup>77</sup> The legislation requires agencies to assess and address the risks of their AI uses prior to buying and deploying the technology. Additionally, the bill ensures the federal government reaps the benefits of this technology through the creation of pilot programs to test more flexible, competitive purchasing practices. Chairman Peters and U.S. Senators Mike Braun and James Lankford also introduced the bipartisan the *Transparent Automated Governance (TAG) Act* to require the Director of Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies to implement transparency practices relating to the use of artificial intelligence and other automated systems.<sup>78</sup> It would also require agencies to notify individuals when a critical decision is made about them using an augmented decision process. Finally, the guidance would instruct agencies to establish human review appeals processes for individuals who receive an adverse critical decision made using an augmented critical decision process. Chairman Peters and Senator Braun also introduced the bipartisan *AI Leadership Training Act*, which would provide guidance to federal leaders when making decisions regarding artificial intelligence tech-

<sup>76</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Hearing on Governing AI Through Acquisition and Procurement, 118th Cong. (September 14, 2023) (S. Hrg. 118–135).

<sup>77</sup> S. 4495 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–291.

<sup>78</sup> S. 1865 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–89.

nology, and ensure the risks and rewards are properly weighed to best benefit agency missions and American communities.<sup>79</sup> Organizations like the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) and the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC) have recommended additional AI training for federal workforce to ensure the appropriate use of these tools. This legislation, which was passed by the Committee, would require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to provide and regularly update an AI training program for federal government supervisors and management officials. The training aims to help federal leaders understand the capabilities, risks, and ethical implications associated with AI, so they can better determine whether an AI capability is appropriate to meet their mission requirements. To modernize federal agency data management and ensure proper data protections are in place, Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Todd Young introduced the bipartisan *Modernizing Data Practices to Improve Government Act*.<sup>80</sup> This legislation, which was passed by the Committee in December 2024, would extend the Chief Data Officers Council and require the Council to examine the federal government’s data management practices to improve data quality, access and transparency—and ultimately to enable better services and potential cost savings. Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Ted Cruz introduced the bipartisan *Federal Improvement in Technology (FIT) Procurement Act* to streamline the federal procurement process and enable more businesses to participate in federal contracting, which will offer greater competition and better deals for the federal government and taxpayers.<sup>81</sup> This bill—passed by Committee in December 2024—would strengthen training for the federal acquisition workforce to ensure they are best prepared to manage the purchase of rapidly advancing technologies, such as artificial intelligence systems. The bill would also require updates to federal procurement rules to eliminate obsolete, overly burdensome or restrictive requirements, simplify the bidding process for contractors, and expand use of procurement methods that allow agencies to quickly collaborate with the private sector on outcome-based solutions. Lastly, Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator John Cornyn authored the *AI Leadership to Enable Accountable Deployment (AI LEAD) Act* to create a Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer position at every federal agency to develop the agency’s efforts and policies regarding AI.<sup>82</sup> The bill also establishes a Chief AI Officers Council that each of these officials would sit on to ensure there is coordination across the federal government on the use of AI. In addition, the legislation would create an AI board of senior officials at each agency to coordinate and integrate AI activities and policy across the agency. For guidance, the bill instructs every federal agency to develop an AI strategy and requires the head of every agency to be accountable for ensuring the responsible research, development, acquisition, and use of AI. The Committee advanced this legislation to the Senate calendar in December 2024.

The hearings held to inform the American people about artificial intelligence and its use in the federal government, the Committee’s

<sup>79</sup> S. 1564 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–124.

<sup>80</sup> S. 5109 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–324.

<sup>81</sup> S. 4066 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–276.

<sup>82</sup> S. 2293 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–216.

report showing the risks that unchecked AI usage has on the financial markets, along with the legislation above, served to further the Committee’s goals to ensure an efficient, safe, and effective adoption of these emerging technologies by the federal government.

## G. STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY

Cyber-attacks remain a significant risk to the country’s national and economic security. Adversarial nation-states continue to use cyber tactics to access and steal sensitive information from American networks, including critical infrastructure, for broader espionage purposes to advance their military, diplomatic, and economic goals.<sup>83</sup> In 2023, data breaches increased by 72% from 2021, which included more than 3,200 data breaches with more than 353 million victims.<sup>84</sup> Notably, an on-going Chinese hacking campaign dubbed Salt Typhoon provided hackers with the communications of senior U.S. government officials and prominent political figures after at least eight U.S. telecommunications firms were infiltrated.<sup>85</sup> Additionally, a mid-2024 global software outage halted daily life, business, and government for millions when a faulty software update issued by American cybersecurity company CrowdStrike to Windows computers running its software caused more than 8.5 million systems to crash and be unable to restart.<sup>86</sup> These cyber-attacks and mass outages highlight the ongoing need to ensure the federal government is prepared to respond to and mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

Given these concerns, the Chairman Peters convened a series of hearings and briefings with senior federal officials and cybersecurity experts to inform the members about the state of cybersecurity. In March 2023, Chairman Peters convened a hearing to examine cybersecurity threats facing the health care sector and how the federal government and health care providers are working to prevent breaches.<sup>87</sup> In June 2024, Chairman Peters convened a hearing to examine the efforts of the Administration to harmonize overlapping federal cybersecurity standards and challenges U.S. businesses face to meet these standards.<sup>88</sup>

During the 118th Congress, in order to address these ongoing cybersecurity threats, Chairman Peters introduced and advanced legislation supporting cybersecurity reforms and modernization. Chairman Peters led the introduction of bicameral, bipartisan legislation to reform federal cybersecurity laws to ensure our nation has necessary tools and resources to protect federal information

<sup>83</sup>Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Threat Assessment 2025, [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24\\_0930\\_ia\\_24-320-ia-publication-2025-hta-final-30sep24-508.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/24_0930_ia_24-320-ia-publication-2025-hta-final-30sep24-508.pdf), (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>84</sup>Identity Theft Resource Center, 2023 Annual Data Breach Report, <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/publication/2023-data-breach-report>, (accessed Feb. 24, 2025).

<sup>85</sup>Aamer Madhani, *White House Says At Least 8 U.S. Telecom Firms, Dozens of Nations Impacted by China Hacking Campaign*, Associated Press (Dec. 4, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/china-hack-us-telecoms-salt-typhoon-88cabc592dae2fa870772c5ce4ace5ea>.

<sup>86</sup>David Weston, *Helping Our Customers Through the CrowdStrike Outage*, Official Microsoft Blog (Jul. 20, 2024), <https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2024/07/20/helping-our-customers-through-the-crowdstrike-outage>.

<sup>87</sup>Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on In Need of a Checkup: Examining the Cybersecurity Risks to the Healthcare Sector*, 118th Cong. (March 16, 2023) (S. Hrg. 118–55).

<sup>88</sup>Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Streamlining the Federal Cybersecurity Regulatory Process: The Path to Harmonization*, 118th Cong. (June 5, 2024) (S. Hrg. 118–353).

technology systems.<sup>89</sup> The *Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2023* would improve coordination across the federal government to help civilian federal agencies and contractors protect their networks against cybersecurity threats. The legislation overhauls and updates the *Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014* to support more effective cybersecurity practices throughout the federal government and improve coordination between the Office of Management and Budget, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Office of the National Cyber Director, and other federal agencies and contractors when addressing online threats.<sup>90</sup> To help secure open-source software, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters' legislation directing CISA to help ensure that open-source software is used safely and securely by the federal government, critical infrastructure, and others.<sup>91</sup> Chairman Peters also joined U.S. Senator Josh Hawley to introduce legislation, which was later advanced by the Committee, requiring the CISA to develop a workforce strategy dedicated to rural hospitals and to provide resources to help secure their vulnerable networks.<sup>92</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator John Cornyn introduced legislation to help protect commercial satellite owners and operators from disruptive cyber-attacks.<sup>93</sup> Commercial satellites provide data and information used for navigation, agriculture, technology development, scientific research, and more. Critical infrastructure systems involved in operating networks that control pipelines, water, and electric utilities are also heavily reliant on commercial satellites.<sup>94</sup> Chairman Peters also led bipartisan legislation to strengthen American cybersecurity partnerships with international partners and allies to ensure the United States can more quickly provide assistance to our allies.<sup>95</sup> To raise awareness of cybersecurity risks, Chairman Peters also introduced legislation to develop a year-round campaign that informs the public about best practices on how to prevent cyber-attacks and mitigate cybersecurity risks.<sup>96</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator James Lankford also led bipartisan legislation to establish a comprehensive framework for streamlining cybersecurity regulations across the federal government.<sup>97</sup> Increasingly complex and overlapping federal cybersecurity regulations have created duplicative or contradictory requirements for businesses, and Peters' legislation would help standardize those regulations by establishing an inter-agency Harmonization Committee at the Office of the National Cyber Director. The bill requires the committee, headed by ONCD, develop a framework for the alignment of cybersecurity and information security regulations, rules, examinations, and other compliance requirements.<sup>98</sup> To better prepare federal employees to address serious cybersecurity threats the Committee advanced Chair-

<sup>89</sup> S. 5109 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–324.

<sup>90</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Bicameral, Bipartisan Leaders Introduce Legislation to Strengthen Federal Cybersecurity*, (July 12, 2023).

<sup>91</sup> S. 917 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–32.

<sup>92</sup> S. 1560 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–170.

<sup>93</sup> S. 1425 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–92.

<sup>94</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Cornyn: *Peters & Cornyn Bipartisan Bill to Protect Commercial Satellites from Cybersecurity Threats Advances in Senate*, (May 17, 2023).

<sup>95</sup> S. 1862 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–268.

<sup>96</sup> S. 1835 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–171.

<sup>97</sup> S. 4630 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–254.

<sup>98</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and James Lankford: *Committee Passes Peters and Lankford Bipartisan Bill to Harmonize Federal Cybersecurity Regulations*, (Aug. 1, 2024).



man Peters’ *Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Competition Act* to improve the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competition, a national cyber competition that identifies and helps train the best cybersecurity talent in the federal workforce, by expanding the competition to include operational technology (OT) and industrial control systems (ICS).<sup>99</sup> OT systems and ICS systems manage, monitor, and control industrial operations and are typically overshadowed in the cybersecurity world even though they form the backbone of most major industries, utilities, and critical infrastructure networks.<sup>100</sup> Finally, the Committee sought to modernize federal agencies and ensure they have the proper data protections and governance in place to adopt and deploy artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. To achieve this, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters’ *Modernizing Data Practices to Improve Government Act* to extend the Chief Data Officers Council and require the Council to examine the federal government’s data management practices to improve data quality, access and transparency.<sup>101</sup>

## H. BIOSECURITY

During the 118th Congress, Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Paul announced a bipartisan investigation of the national security threats posed by high-risk biological research and technology in the U.S. and abroad.<sup>102</sup> As part of their joint investigation, the Committee convened a hearing to examine the evidence related to the origins of the COVID–19 pandemic, which was one of the worst public health crises the U.S. has ever faced.<sup>103</sup> More than one million Americans and millions more around the world died from the virus. The COVID–19 pandemic was a once in a generation event that both threatened public health and created unprecedented challenges to our economic and homeland security. During the hearing, the Committee heard testimony about those challenges and learned key lessons about what actions are needed to better protect Americans from a future potential biological incident, whether it is a naturally occurring outbreak, or potential outbreaks that could arise from mistakes or malicious intent.<sup>104</sup>

The Committee held a subsequent hearing convened by Chairman Peters in July 2024 to examine federal policies related to high-risk life science research.<sup>105</sup> The hearing highlighted the unique challenge of balancing research that supports key medical developments with public safety and national security. During the hearing, Peters and the witnesses emphasized the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in scientific innovation and setting global biosafety standards. They also stressed the importance of

<sup>99</sup> S. 3635 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–234.

<sup>100</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Mike Braun: *Peters and Braun Bipartisan Bill to Bolster Government’s Cybersecurity Capabilities Passes Committee*, (Jan. 31, 2024).

<sup>101</sup> S. 5109 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–324.

<sup>102</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Rand Paul, *Peters and Paul Announce Bipartisan Biodefense and Life Science Research Investigation*, (March 20, 2024).

<sup>103</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Origins of COVID–19: An Examination of Available Evidence*, 118th Cong. (June 18, 2024) (S. Hrg. 118–355).

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>105</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Risky Research: Oversight of U.S. Taxpayer Funded High-Risk Virus Research*, 118th Cong. (July 11, 2024).

having a federal oversight system that is flexible yet effective in mitigating potential risks associated with high-risk life sciences research.<sup>106</sup>

Chairman Peters also led efforts to combat the ability of foreign adversaries to steal American genetic data and personal health information. Biotechnology is a rapidly expanding field with many beneficial applications, including promoting human health, improving agricultural production, and spurring industrial innovation. However, biological data, such as DNA sequences, can be exploited for military purposes, used to invade privacy, and violate human rights. The U.S. intelligence community has cited the Chinese Communist Party’s concerted efforts to acquire human genetic and related data through biotechnology companies such as the BGI Group (BGI) as a serious threat to U.S. national security.<sup>107</sup> Other adversarial governments also recognize the strategic value of biotechnology to gain military and economic advantage. The U.S. has taken some steps to mitigate these threats, including by adding BGI subsidiaries to the U.S. Department of Commerce Entity List—which identifies foreign entities that may pose a security threat to the United States. However, the Chinese government and other adversaries often seek ways to get around these restrictions, and a more comprehensive strategic approach to addressing these threats is needed. To mitigate the threat posed by foreign access to this data, Chairman Peters introduced the *Safeguarding American Genetic Data Act of 2023*.<sup>108</sup> This legislation would create a comprehensive process to identify companies with business practices that pose a threat to U.S. national security and ban companies that are identified as national security risks from receiving taxpayer dollars through federal government contracts.<sup>109</sup> In early 2024, Chairman Peters and colleagues sent a letter to the Departments of Treasury, Defense, and Commerce encouraging them to investigate Chinese global biotech company WuXi AppTec and its subsidiaries, citing WuXi AppTec’s alarming ties to the Chinese military and the Chinese Communist Party.<sup>110</sup>

## I. MEMBER STOCK TRADING

In an historic first, Chairman Peters led the Committee in passing legislation with bipartisan support to ban by Members of Congress, their spouses, and their dependents from holding, buying, or selling stocks.<sup>111</sup> This marked the first time that a Senate Committee considered and passed legislation barring stock trading by Members of Congress. Peters led bipartisan negotiations to craft the legislation, which was built off of the *Ending Trading and Holdings In Congressional Stocks (ETHICS) Act* introduced by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and approved by the Committee at a July 24,

<sup>106</sup>Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: Video: 3Peters Convenes Hearing to Examine Federal Policies Related to High-Risk Life Science Research, (July 12, 2024).

<sup>107</sup>Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Introduces Bill to Protect American Genetic Data from Foreign Adversaries*, (Dec. 8, 2023).

<sup>108</sup>S. 3411 (118th Cong.).

<sup>109</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>110</sup>Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Bill Hagerty, Representatives Mike Gallagher, Raja Krishnamoorthi: *Peters and Colleagues Call on Administration to Investigate Chinese Biotech Company WuXi AppTec*, (February 12, 2024).

<sup>111</sup>S. 1171 (118th Cong.). S. Rept. 118–309. Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Jeff Merkley, Josh Hawley, Jon Ossoff: *Peters, Merkley, Hawley and Ossoff Announce Historic Bipartisan Agreement to Advance Legislation to Ban Member Stock Trading*, (June 26, 2023).

2024 business meeting. The legislation would immediately ban Members of Congress from buying stocks and other covered investments and prohibit members from selling stocks 90 days after enactment. The bipartisan legislation also requires Members of Congress, the President and the Vice President to divest from all covered investments, starting in 2027. The legislation also includes enhanced transparency requirements and increases penalties for violations under the *STOCK Act*.<sup>112</sup> The legislation is intended to hold bad actors accountable, address the appearance of possible conflicts of interest, and give the public confidence that federal elected officials are working in the peoples' best interests, rather than their own personal financial interests.

## J. IMPROVING TRAVEL SCREENING PROCESSES

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Congress swiftly took action to better protect the nation against the threat of terrorist attacks. The federal government subsequently established one comprehensive "terrorist watchlist," which federal agencies continue to use to identify known and suspected terrorists. In addition to the terrorist watchlist, Congress and the executive branch expanded traveler screening at airports and other ports of entry to combat threats of terrorism and other security risks. A portion of the screening is driven by the terrorist watchlist, but the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection screen travelers for other reasons as well. While protecting national security and the safety of travelers remains at key homeland security priority, these practices, which repeatedly ensnare travelers who may pose no danger to national security, may divert critical counterterrorism resources away from identifying other serious security threats.<sup>113</sup>

In December 2023, Chairman Peters released a report that revealed that well-intentioned screening practices at airports and other ports of entry have ballooned over time.<sup>114</sup> According to the report's findings, there are at least 22 different mechanisms that might lead travelers to receive additional screening at airports and other ports of entry or be denied the ability to travel—not all security related—and yet the U.S. government does not look comprehensively across all of these policies to assess their combined effectiveness or whether they impact certain individuals or communities more than others. Members of the Arab, Muslim, and South Asian American communities report that they are unfairly targeted by these screening practices; however, federal agencies do not effectively assess whether discrimination occurs in these processes. These practices are intended to protect the U.S. from terrorists and other security threats, but these practices have expanded into a layered and duplicative screening system that is difficult for the government to explain, and for American citizens to understand

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> Majority Staff Report, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Mislabeled as a Threat: How the Terrorist Watchlist and Government Screening Practices Impact Americans*, (Dec. 19, 2023).

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

why they have been flagged for secondary screening or how they can seek real redress.<sup>115</sup>

Following his report, Chairman Peters called on the Inspectors General of the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Defense, State, and Treasury, and the Intelligence Community to conduct a coordinated review of the full implementation of the terrorist watchlist.<sup>116</sup> Peters' report recommended that the relevant IGs conduct a comprehensive assessment of the government's use and maintenance of the terrorist watchlist, including examining agencies' compliance with existing guidance on the watchlist, how individuals who match to the watchlist are impacted, and the efficacy of the redress process.

Chairman Peters also introduced legislation to reform the traveler redress process and improve screening practices at airports and ports of entry. The *Enhanced Oversight and Accountability in Screening Act*, which was passed by the Committee, would require DHS to provide Congress with a plan to meaningfully reform the redress process and improve the experience of individuals who believe they have been wrongly subjected to additional screenings or have experienced delays in travel.<sup>117</sup> The bill would establish a DHS Screening and Watchlisting Advisory Committee, comprised of both governmental and non-governmental representatives, to advise the Secretary on the development, refinement, implementation, and evaluation of security processes. To enhance transparency, the bill also mandates the DHS Secretary to provide Congress with a report assessing the effectiveness of secondary screenings and inspections by the Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. This legislation seeks to strengthen public trust in our screening practices, increase transparency into the screening system, and protect travelers' civil rights and civil liberties.<sup>118</sup>

#### K. IMPROVING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ADDRESSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

To ensure that the government and federal contractors are working in the best interests of Americans, the Committee prioritized ensuring that they are meeting the highest standards of integrity, impartiality and transparency by removing conflicts of interest from their work. During the 118th Congress, the Committee held hearings and advanced legislation seeking to improve government transparency and address potential conflicts of interest in the federal government and its contractors.

It is essential to ensure that companies contracting with the federal government do not pose threats to our national security and economic competitiveness. That is why, in 2023, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley's bipartisan legislation to improve our nation's ability to prevent foreign

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Calls For Inspectors General To Conduct Comprehensive, Coordinated Review of Terrorist Watchlist*, (Dec. 22, 2023).

<sup>117</sup> S.4681 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118-318; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Introduces Bill to Reform Redress Process and Improve Travel Screening Practices*, (July 19, 2024).

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

governments from attempting to influence U.S. policy.<sup>119</sup> The *Lobbying Disclosure Improvement Act* would improve transparency of the activities of lobbyists who represent foreign persons or organizations by requiring them to indicate whether they are taking advantage of an exemption under the *Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA)* when they register under the *Lobbying Disclosure Act*. This would help the Department of Justice narrow the pool of registrants they are examining for potential violations, while not imposing any meaningful additional burden on registrants. This legislation passed the Senate in 2023.<sup>120</sup>

Following reports of federal contractors who simultaneously promote competing interests, including those of our foreign adversaries, Chairman Peters convened a hearing examining conflicts of interest in federal contracting.<sup>121</sup> During the hearing, the witnesses discussed examples of recent troubling conflicts of interest from some federal contractors and highlighted the need to prevent future conflicts of interest.<sup>122</sup> Prior to the hearing, Peters sent a letter urging the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council to issue a rulemaking to prevent conflicts of interest in government contracting after missing its deadline by more than three months.<sup>123</sup> This overdue guidance was required by Peters' *Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act*, which was signed into law in 2022, and seeks to end conflicts of interest from federal contracts that provide critical services to the American people.<sup>124</sup> Following the Chairman's repeated calls to issue the guidance required by his law, on January 15, 2025, the Defense Department, in coordination with the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, issued the requested notice of proposed rulemaking.<sup>125</sup> Prior to this hearing, the Committee also passed U.S. Senator Josh Hawley's *Time to Choose Act* which aimed to consulting firms from receiving government contracts while advising U.S. adversaries.<sup>126</sup> Finally, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters' *Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act* which closes existing loopholes in whistleblower protection laws that have left employees of federal contractors who have disclosed waste, fraud or abuse in federal agencies vulnerable to acts of reprisal.<sup>127</sup>

<sup>119</sup>S. 264 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-12; S. 2289 (118th Cong.); Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Chuck Grassley: *Senate Passes Peters and Grassley Bipartisan Bills to Help Prevent Foreign Influence in U.S. Policy*, (June 26, 2023).

<sup>120</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>121</sup>Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Safeguarding the Homeland: Examining Conflicts of Interest in Federal Contracting to Protect America's Future*, 118th Cong. (Sept. 24, 2024) (S. Hrg. 118-437).

<sup>122</sup>Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: ICMYI: *Peters Convenes Hearing to Examine Potential Conflicts of Interest in Federal Contracting that Put National Security at Risk*, (Sept. 24, 2024).

<sup>123</sup>Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Chuck Grassley, Maggie Hassan, Joni Ernst: *Peters, Grassley, Hassan, and Ernst Press for Action on Rulemaking to Address Federal Contracting Conflicts of Interests After Missed Deadline*, (Sept. 23, 2024).

<sup>124</sup>S. 3907 (117th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 117-324.

<sup>125</sup>Federal Acquisition Regulation Proposed Rule: *Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition*, 90 Fed. Reg. 4376 (Jan. 15, 2025).

<sup>126</sup>S. 3810 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118-314.

<sup>127</sup>S. 1524 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118-202; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Whistleblower Protections for Federal Contractors*, (May 11, 2023).

Chairman Peters also held a hearing to assess federal agencies' compliance with federal recordkeeping and disclosure laws.<sup>128</sup> The Committee heard from records management and transparency experts on how federal agencies' failure to appropriately retain and disclose records obstructs Congressional oversight and prevents transparency and accountability for American taxpayers. The Committee also heard about the challenges presented by rapid digitization and the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) lack of resources and outdated records management technology. During the hearing, Peters highlighted the need to update the *Federal Records Act* and address the use of emerging technologies to ensure that federal agencies are more efficient and accountable. Following this hearing, Chairman Peters introduced bipartisan legislation to modernize and strengthen the laws requiring the maintenance and preservation of government records.<sup>129</sup> The *Strengthening Oversight of Federal Records Act* would reform the *Federal Records Act* to strengthen requirements for preserving records and create greater accountability for mismanagement of federal agency records. The bill also makes critical updates to account for commonly used electronic communications, including disappearing messaging apps, and takes steps to ensure that federal agencies are utilizing emerging technology to manage their records more efficiently. The Committee advanced this legislation in November 2024.<sup>130</sup>

Finally, to further improve government transparency, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters' *Clear and Concise Content Act* and his *Improving Senate Confirmation and Vacancy Oversight Act of 2024*. The former bill ensures that guidance, instructions, and other public information published by the federal government is written in plain language.<sup>131</sup> The latter bill would create a dashboard to identify and track the status of nominations for the more than 1,300 Senate-confirmed, executive branch positions including which positions that are vacant or held by an official in an acting role.<sup>132</sup>

#### L. IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

During the 118th Congress, Chairman Peters continually emphasized the importance of making government more efficient. Effective oversight of the federal government is crucial to ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. To achieve this objective, Chairman Peters directed the Committee to convene hearings,

<sup>128</sup>Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on Reforming Federal Records Management to Improve Transparency and Accountability*, 118th Cong. (March 20, 2024) (S. Hrg. 118-263); Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: Video: Peters Convenes Hearing to Assess Federal Records Management Compliance, Discuss Potential Reforms, (March 20, 2024).

<sup>129</sup>S. 4042 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-235; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Cornyn: *Peters and Cornyn Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Modernize Federal Records Laws*, (March 28, 2024).

<sup>130</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup>S. 717 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-26; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and James Lankford: *Peters and Lankford Reinroduce Clear and Concise Content Act*, (March 9, 2023).

<sup>132</sup>S. 5133 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-325; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford and Amy Klobuchar: *Peters, Lankford, and Klobuchar Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Improve Transparency of the Senate Confirmation Process*, (September 24, 2024).

and advance and enact legislation to examine, mitigate, and eliminate federal waste, fraud, and abuse.<sup>133</sup>

In April 2023, the Committee convened a hearing with the Comptroller General of the United States, Gene L. Dodaro, to examine the nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2023 High Risk List—a biennial report that identifies federal programs that are vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse.<sup>134</sup> During the hearing, Peters emphasized the important role that GAO plays in helping Congress ensure a more effective and efficient government. The hearing also discussed how the High Risk List has helped identify reforms to save taxpayer dollars, strengthen cybersecurity, address toxic substances, and improve our response to public health emergencies. Several issue area experts from the GAO also provided testimony to the Committee.

Under Chairman Peters' leadership, the Committee advanced numerous pieces of legislation during the 118th Congress to increase government efficiency and reduce government waste. In October 2024, Peters' *Reuse Excess Property Act*, to hold agencies more accountable to the public on how they reuse excess personal property, was signed into law following Committee passage.<sup>135</sup> This law will update existing requirements for agencies to report their excess personal property to the General Services Administration (GSA) by making those reports available to the public as well. This would help agency officials and taxpayers better understand the extent to which agencies are working to cut wasteful spending through excess property. The Government Accountability Office has identified management of personal property as one of its high-priority areas of recommendation for the GSA. From 2016 to 2020, agencies reported \$32.8 billion worth of perfectly good excess items that other agencies could use to meet their needs. However, agencies only made use of twelve percent of these items—\$3.9 billion—while acquiring \$206 billion in new items. The *Reuse Excess Property Act* cuts down on this waste and ensures agencies turn to their own internal supply before buying new, to save taxpayers billions of dollars in excess property costs.<sup>136</sup>

Additionally, Peters' *Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Data Access Act* was signed into law in October 2024 after being advanced by the Committee.<sup>137</sup> This law would make the legislative process more efficient by eliminating procedural delays in CBO's ability to access information from federal agencies by providing CBO with the same exemption to the *Privacy Act* granted to the Government Accountability Office and both chambers of Congress. Like GAO's exemption, CBO would still be required to maintain agencies' data at the same level of confidentiality that is required of the agency

<sup>133</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, *Hearing on GAO's 2023 High Risk List: Recommendations for Reducing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse*, 118th Cong. (April 20, 2023). (S. Hrg. 118–67); Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: Peters Convened Hearing to Examine GAO's High Risk Report on Federal Waste, Fraud, and Abuse, (April 20, 2023).

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> S. 2685 (118th Cong.), Became Public Law No: 118–99; Press Release: Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford: *Peters and Lankford Bipartisan Legislation to Save Taxpayer Dollars by Reusing Excess Federal Property Signed into Law*, (Oct. 3, 2024).

<sup>136</sup> Government Accountability Office, *Federal Personal Property: Better Internal Guidance and More Action from GSA Are Needed to Help Agencies Maximize Use of Excess* (GAO–22–104626) (June 2022).

<sup>137</sup> S. 1459 (118th Cong.), Became Public Law No: 118–104; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Susan Collins: *Peters and Collins Bipartisan Legislation to Improve Efficiency of Legislative Process Signed into Law*, (Oct. 4, 2024).

from which the data originated. By providing CBO with quicker access to the information they need to analyze the impacts of legislation, this bipartisan law will help make Congress more efficient and ensure that lawmakers have up-to-date and accurate information on how proposed reforms would affect the American people.

Throughout the 118th Congress, Chairman Peters introduced and advanced effective legislation seeking to save taxpayer dollars. In February 2023, Chairman Peters introduced bipartisan legislation to authorize Federal Executive Boards (FEBs), which help improve collaboration among federal agency offices located outside of Washington, D.C.<sup>138</sup> The *Improving Government Efficiency and Workforce Development through Federal Executive Boards Act* was advanced by the Committee in May 2023.<sup>139</sup> The bill would enable FEBs to further support agency efforts to recruit and place students, veterans, and others into skills training opportunities like apprenticeships and paid internships at agency field offices. The following month, Peters introduced the bipartisan *Federal Agency Performance Act* to improve transparency and accountability on how federal agencies are working to save taxpayer dollars and improve delivery of essential services across the nation.<sup>140</sup> This legislation was signed into law on December 23, 2024.<sup>141</sup>

Chairman Peters has been determined to streamline the federal procurement process and reduce waste in government contracts. In May 2023, the Committee advanced Peters' bipartisan *Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets (SAMOSA) Act* which would require agencies to conduct an independent, comprehensive assessment of their software licensing, deployment, acquisition, and true use capabilities. Because of the way software is variably offered, sold, packaged, and distributed across agency information technology (IT) investments, the government is projected to spend north of \$100 billion on IT in fiscal year 2025.<sup>142</sup> This number will only increase, meaning that agencies must be well informed when executing new procurements or negotiating recompetes. Conservatively estimating that software makes up 30 percent of those expenditures, per year, and assuming that improved software licensing negotiations, informed by the comprehensive assessments required by agencies under this Act, would lead to a 15 percent reduction in costs,<sup>143</sup> taxpayers could expect to see up to \$5 billion in costs savings annually over the life of this Act. That number is likely to increase if government-wide purchasing agreements are leveraged by the Office of Management and Budget based on the governmentwide strategy required in this Act. This legislation builds on a law written by Chairman Peters and Senator Cassidy to reduce duplicative software purchases called the

<sup>138</sup>S. 285 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118–95; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, John Cornyn, Alex Padilla: *Peters, Cornyn & Padilla Reinroduce Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Federal Workforce and Delivery of Government Services*, (Feb. 8, 2023).

<sup>139</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>140</sup>S. 709 (118th Cong.), Became Public Law No: 118–190; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Mike Braun: *Peters & Braun Reinroduce Bipartisan Bill to Bolster Transparency and Accountability for Federal Agency Performance Goals*, (March 8, 2023).

<sup>141</sup>S. 709 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No: 118–190.

<sup>142</sup>Statista, *Federal government information technology (IT) expenditure in the United States from FY 2011 to FY 2025, by significance*. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/554000/united-states-federal-it-expenditure-by-investment-significance/>, (accessed Feb. 26, 2025).

<sup>143</sup>TechRepublic, *How you could save millions during software licensing renegotiations*. <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/save-with-software-licensing-renegotiations/>, (accessed Feb. 26, 2025).



*Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies (MEGABYTE) Act*.<sup>144</sup> Since being signed into law in 2016, the MEGABYTE Act has saved taxpayers more than \$3.4 billion.<sup>145</sup>

In addition to the above procurement reforms, the Committee advanced Peters' *Federal Improvement in Technology (FIT) Procurement Act*, which would streamline how the federal government buys cloud computing services.<sup>146</sup> The Act would add an exception to the statutory list of purchases for which advance payment is allowed. Specifically, it would allow federal agencies to make payment arrangements for information and communications technology acquired on a subscription, reservations, or tenancy basis, including cloud computing and data center solutions. This is consistent with commercial practices to get better deals and achieve savings. In July 2023, the Government Services Administration issued a Request for Information (RFI) to learn about industry practices on term-based Software as a Service (SaaS) pricing. The information provided in response to that RFI confirms that upfront payments for SaaS are a commercial best practice and that the change in this provision should result in 3.75–20 percent savings for cloud computing and other similar services.<sup>147</sup> With verifiable total federal cloud expenditures of \$11 billion<sup>148</sup> and assuming 50 percent of total cloud computing expenditures are on term and subscription-based cloud services, a pay up front model could reasonably yield estimated cost savings of between \$200 million to \$1.1 billion annually.

The Committee also advanced other legislative efforts to improve government operations and save taxpayer dollars. The *Streamlining Federal Grants Act*, co-authored by Chairman Peters, was advanced by the Committee.<sup>149</sup> It directs the Office of Management and Budget to provide guidance to federal agencies on how they can simplify and streamline their grant application processes, including by making notice of funding opportunities easier to understand, updating software and systems that are used to apply for and manage federal grants, and implementing common data standards for grant reporting, among other things.<sup>150</sup> Peters then introduced the *Improving Government Services Act* which would encourage all government agencies to offer a better and more secure experience for taxpayers by adopting customer service best practices from the private sector.<sup>151</sup> Next, the Committee advanced Peters' bipartisan *Agency Preparation for Transitions (APT) Act* which will ensure all federal agencies are prepared for a smooth transition

<sup>144</sup> H.R. 4904 (114th Cong.), Became Public Law No: 114–210; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *In Case You Missed It: Law Written by Peters Saved Taxpayers More than \$450 Million Since 2016*, (Sept. 14, 2020).

<sup>145</sup> General Services Administration's Federal IT Dashboard, Cost Savings. <https://www.itdashboard.gov/cost-savings>, (accessed Feb. 1, 2025).

<sup>146</sup> S. 4066 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118–276.

<sup>147</sup> Government Services Administration, *GSA publishes Cloud Buying Request for Information (RFI)*, (July 2023).

<sup>148</sup> GovWin IQ from Deltek, *Federal Cloud Computing Market, 2022–2024*, Federal Issue Report, August 2022 Executive Summary.

<sup>149</sup> S. 2286 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118–126.

<sup>150</sup> S. 2286 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118–126; Press Release: Senators Gary Peters, John Cornyn, James Lankford: *Peters, Cornyn and Lankford Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Help Improve the Federal Grant Application Process*, (July 17, 2023).

<sup>151</sup> S. 2866 (118th Cong.). Report No: 118–217; Press release: Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford, John Cornyn: *Peters, Lankford and Cornyn Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Improve Customer Service at Federal Agencies*, (Oct.17, 2023).

process by clarifying the timelines for the delivery of key transition services.<sup>152</sup> The Committee then advanced Peters’ bipartisan *Government Spending Oversight Act* which creates the Government Spending Oversight Committee, a successor to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, which Peters helped create, to combat and prevent fraud in government spending.<sup>153</sup> In March 2024, Peters introduced the bipartisan *Financial Management Risk Reduction Act* to improve the quality, usability, and completeness of grant recipient audit data which was signed into law on December 23, 2024.<sup>154</sup> Adding to Peters’ success in advancing legislation promoting government efficiency, the Senate unanimously passed his *Saving Money and Accelerating Repairs Through Leasing (SMART Leasing) Act*, to create a program that allows federal agencies to lease underutilized properties with approval from the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA), and to use the rent payments to help fund capital projects and facilities maintenance.<sup>155</sup> Finally, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters’ bipartisan *Permitting Council Improvement Act* to update the federal permitting process and increase Congressional oversight of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.<sup>156</sup> In addition to cutting red tape, this bill would accelerate the development of projects that will create jobs, boost the economy, and improve quality of life for Americans across the country, while maintaining a commitment to robust environmental stewardship.

### IMPROVING FEDERAL CONTRACTING

When government contracting process runs smoothly, agencies are better equipped to provide services to the American people and taxpayer dollars are used more efficiently for procurement and service delivery. In the 118th Congress, the Committee sought to improve the federal contracting process and its oversight. The Committee advanced Chairman Peters’ bipartisan *Conforming Procedures for Federal Task and Delivery Order Contracts Act* which would slim down the procurement process for contractors bidding on work as well as for the federal government, ensuring necessary due diligence is done while allowing awards to be made faster and to a wider array of contractors, including small businesses.<sup>157</sup> As noted above, Chairman Peters also introduced-and the Committee advanced-the bipartisan *Federal Improvement in Technology (FIT) Procurement Act* to remove obstacles to acquiring products and

<sup>152</sup> S. 3654 (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–313; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Susan Collins: *Peters & Collins Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen the Transition Process for Federal Agencies Passes Committee* (February 2, 2024).

<sup>153</sup> S. 4036 (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–186; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Mitt Romney: *Peters and Romney Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Oversight of Government Spending* (March 28, 2024).

<sup>154</sup> S. 4716 (118th Cong.). Became Public Law No. 118–207; Press Release: Senators Gary Peters and Ron Johnson: *Peters and Johnson Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Safeguard Taxpayer Dollars and Improve Independent Auditing of Federal Grant Recipients* (July 19, 2024).

<sup>155</sup> S. 211 (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–35; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, James Lankford, Kyrsten Sinema, Josh Hawley: *Senate Passes Peters, Lankford, Sinema & Hawley Bipartisan Bill to Create Leasing Program for Underutilized Space Held by Federal Agencies* (Aug. 2, 2024).

<sup>156</sup> S. 4679 (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–292; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and James Lankford: *Committee Passes Peters and Lankford Bipartisan Bill to Increase Transparency and Improve the Federal Permitting Process*, (Sept. 27, 2024).

<sup>157</sup> S. 3626 (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–242; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Joni Ernst: *Peters & Ernst Bipartisan Bill to Streamline Federal Contracting Process Advances in the Senate*, (Feb. 1, 2024).

services in a timely and cost-effective way, increase competition for contracts, and open additional opportunities for more businesses to enter federal contracting.<sup>158</sup> Finally, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters' *Improving Contracting Outcomes Act of 2024* which would ensure agencies are focusing on the outcomes of contracts, including assessing the performance of contracting offices, identifying what works and what does not, and improving the return on taxpayer dollars.<sup>159</sup>

Additionally, Chairman Peters introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure Department of Homeland Security can procure the latest technologies to effectively secure our nation.<sup>160</sup> His *Better Enabling Secure and Trustworthy (BEST) Technology for the Homeland Act* was added to the Senate calendar after advancing out of Committee in December 2024. This legislation would authorize DHS to extend its use of a procurement tool for acquiring leading-edge technology. This procurement tool, known as other transaction authority (OTA), provides DHS with the flexibility to work with the most innovative businesses, including those that have not previously contracted with the federal government. OTA has helped DHS acquire advanced technologies to assist with critical homeland security missions, including border security, aviation security and supply chain security.<sup>161</sup>

#### M. BOLSTERING THE NATION'S RESPONSE TO DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

Severe storms, extreme flooding, rising water levels, wildfires and high winds—along with other severe weather driven by climate change—are contributing to destructive natural disasters. These events have put homes, small businesses, property, and communities at risk, and caused billions of dollars in damages. During the 118th Congress, the United States faced more than 45 weather events with damages costing more than one billion dollars.<sup>162</sup> These disasters led to the deaths of more than 870 Americans.<sup>163</sup>

Under Chairman Peters' leadership, the Committee worked to improve disaster response and mitigate the impacts of future severe weather events by passing bipartisan legislation. Chairman Peters introduced the bipartisan *Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act* with Ranking Member Rand Paul and Senator Marco Rubio to create one application deadline for two Federal Emergency Management Agency programs that individuals use for federal disaster assistance. The bill, which was signed into law in March 2024, aligns the deadlines to apply for FEMA's Disaster Un-

<sup>158</sup>S. 4066 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-276; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Ted Cruz: *Peters and Cruz Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Streamline the Federal Procurement Process*, (April 3, 2024).

<sup>159</sup>S. 4055 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-274; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and James Lankford: *Peters and Lankford Bipartisan Bill to Save Taxpayer Dollars and Improve Federal Contracts Advances in the Senate*, (April 12, 2024).

<sup>160</sup>S. 3626 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-242; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Joni Ernst: *Peters & Ernst Bipartisan Bill to Streamline Federal Contracting Process Advances in the Senate*, (Feb. 1, 2024).

<sup>161</sup>S. 4024 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118-273; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Steve Daines: *Peters and Daines Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Ensure DHS Can Procure Advanced Technologies to Strengthen National Security*, (April 02, 2024).

<sup>162</sup>NOAA National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) *U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2024)*. <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2024>, (accessed Feb. 20, 2025).

<sup>163</sup>*Ibid.*

employment Assistance (DUA) and Individuals and Households Program (IHP) to both be 60 days after a federal disaster declaration.<sup>164</sup> Previously, the DUA deadline was 30 days after a disaster declaration. This new law limits confusion within the application process and reduces barriers to access these critical resources in the wake of a disaster. Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Paul and Senator James Lankford also introduced the *Disaster Assistance Simplification Act*, bipartisan legislation that was passed by the Senate to further simplify the application process for federal disaster assistance.<sup>165</sup> The legislation would require FEMA to establish a universal application across federal agencies for those seeking federal assistance to recover from natural disasters such as severe storms, floods, wildfires, and more. Currently, individuals must fill out separate and detailed applications depending on what agency they need help from—a process that can take weeks or even months. This legislation would significantly streamline this process to reduce the burden on disaster survivors.<sup>166</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator John Kennedy introduced the bipartisan *HELP Response and Recovery Act*, which passed the Senate in March 2024.<sup>167</sup> This legislation would repeal an outdated section of the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006* (PKEMRA) to streamline support for disaster survivors after an emergency and enable DHS to more effectively respond to emergencies.<sup>168</sup> Chairman Peters also led the introduction of the bipartisan *Disaster Survivors Fairness Act*, which was passed by the Committee, to improve how FEMA provides assistance to individuals.<sup>169</sup> This bill would reform individual federal disaster assistance programs to best support survivors, including by providing FEMA with new authorities to increase its ability to fund disaster mitigation projects and expand support to homeowners for home repairs and disaster housing.<sup>170</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy also led the introduction of the *Facilitating Hazard Mitigations Projects Act*, which would require FEMA to simplify its requirements for demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of hazard mitigation grants and streamline the application process for states, local governments, Tribes, and territories.<sup>171</sup> Extensive applicant feedback has shown that the current benefit-cost analysis process is cumbersome and overly complicated, which puts underserved communities at a disadvantage for accessing funds.<sup>172</sup> Finally, the Senate passed Chairman Peters’ and Senator Bill Cassidy’s *Federal Emergency Mobilization Accountability (FEMA) Workforce Planning*

<sup>164</sup> S. 1858 (118th Cong.). S. Report No: 118–74; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters: *Peters Bipartisan Bill to Create One Deadline to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance Programs for Individuals Signed into Law*, (March 20, 2024).

<sup>165</sup> S. 1528 (118th Cong.). S. Report No: 118–39; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Rand Paul and James Lankford: *Senate Passes Peters, Paul and Lankford Bipartisan Bill to Simplify Application Process for Federal Disaster Assistance*, (Aug. 1, 2023).

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>167</sup> S. 3648 (118th Cong.). S. Report No: 118–161.

<sup>168</sup> Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and John Kennedy: *Peters and Kennedy Bipartisan Bill to Improve Federal Government’s Response to Emergencies Passes Senate*, (March 21, 2024).

<sup>169</sup> S. 5067 (118th Cong.). S. Report No. 118–321; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Peter Welch: *Peters, Tillis, Lankford, & Welch Bipartisan Bill to Reform FEMA Individual Assistance Programs Heads to Senate*, (Sept. 27, 2024).

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>171</sup> S. 3067 (118th Cong.). S. Report No: 118–228; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Bill Cassidy: *Peters & Cassidy Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Simplify Requirements for Hazard Mitigation Grants*, (Oct. 19, 2023).

<sup>172</sup> *Ibid.*

Act, which would direct FEMA to create a plan for the agency to effectively manage its workforce so that they are well-equipped to help communities deal with natural disasters.<sup>173</sup> This legislation would improve FEMA’s employee recruitment and retention efforts, develop strategies to train and deploy their workforce in efficient ways, and utilize data to address and fix staffing gaps.

## N. SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Every day, civil servants across the federal government go to work for the American people. They ensure Americans get their Social Security checks on time. They distribute resources in the wake of natural disasters. They strengthen our national security and help protect our borders. Civil servants carry out the critical tasks of governance. Given pending threats to politicize the nonpartisan civilian federal workforce, Chairman Peters convened a hearing examine the Schedule F proposal that existed under the first Trump Administration and the threat it poses to the delivery of critical government services.<sup>174</sup> The hearing highlighted how removing qualified, nonpartisan experts from key government positions would hinder our government’s efficiency and harm the American people by draining the federal government of institutional knowledge, expertise, and continuity. It would also slow down services, make our nation less prepared when disaster strikes, and erode public trust in government. Perhaps most importantly, it would weaken our national security and make us more vulnerable to serious threats facing our nation. More than 70 percent of the federal workforce serves in defense and national security agencies. The witnesses discussed how to protect the nonpartisan civil service and offered steps Congress could take to strengthen it for the future.

Chairman Peters also led several key legislative efforts to support and strengthen the federal workforce. Most notably, the Committee advanced Chairman Peters’ *Dismantling Outdated Obstacles and Barriers to Individual Employment (DOOBIE) Act* to ensure applicants for federal positions or security clearances are not being denied solely on the basis of past recreational and medical marijuana use.<sup>175</sup> This bill would align federal hiring practices with current guidance on past marijuana use, broaden the federal employee applicant pool by providing clarity, and help the government compete with the private sector for talent.<sup>176</sup> Chairman Peters and U.S. Senator Joni Ernst also introduced the bipartisan *Telework Transparency Act* increase transparency and oversight of federal telework policies.<sup>177</sup> This bill, which was passed by the Committee, would make federal telework policies more transparent by requiring agencies to make policies publicly available online. The legisla-

<sup>173</sup> S. 4181, (118th Cong.). Report No. 118–236; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Bill Cassidy: *Senate Passes Peters and Cassidy Bipartisan Bill to Bolster FEMA Workforce Planning, Protect Communities From Natural Disasters* (Dec. 19, 2024).

<sup>174</sup> Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Hearing on Ensuring a Trustworthy Government: Examining the National Security Risks of Replacing Nonpartisan Civil Servants with Political Appointees*, 118th Cong. (Sept. 17, 2024).

<sup>175</sup> S. 4711 (118th Cong.), Report No: 118–319; Press Release, Senator Gary Peters, *Committee Passes the DOOBIE Act*, (Sept.18, 2024).

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>177</sup> S. 4043 (118th Cong.), Report No. 118–315; Press Release, Senators Gary Peters and Joni Ernst: *Peters and Ernst Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Increase Transparency and Oversight of Federal Telework*, (April 3, 2024).

tion will also require agencies to establish automated systems to track employee use of telework. Agencies must also monitor office building utilization and the effects of telework on agency performance, including customer service, backlogs and wait times, cost to operations, security, management of real property and personal property, technology investments, and recruitment and retention. The bill directs OPM to establish quality data standards and compile the data in a centralized location to ensure transparency for the American people.<sup>178</sup>

## II. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of the Committee (which was renamed the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs when the 109th Congress convened) derives from the Rules of the Senate and Senate Resolutions:

### RULE XXV

\* \* \* \* \*

(k)(1) Committee on Governmental Affairs, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Archives of the United States.
  2. Budget and accounting measures, other than appropriations, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.
  3. Census and collection of statistics, including economic and social statistics.
  4. Congressional organization, except for any part of the matter that amends the rules or orders of the Senate.
  5. Federal Civil Service.
  6. Government information.
  7. Intergovernmental relations.
  8. Municipal affairs of the District of Columbia, except appropriations therefor.
  9. Organization and management of United States nuclear export policy.
  10. Organization and reorganization of the executive branch of the Government.
  11. Postal Service.
  12. Status of officers and employees of the United States, including their classification, compensation, and benefits.
- (2) Such committee shall have the duty of—
- (A) receiving and examining reports of the Comptroller General of the United States and of submitting such recommendations to the Senate as it deems necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of such reports;
  - (B) studying the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government;
  - (C) evaluating the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government; and
  - (D) studying the intergovernmental relationships between the United States and the States and municipalities, and between the

---

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*

United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member.

SENATE RESOLUTION 59, 118TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.

Sec. 12. (a) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) INVESTIGATIONS—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, is authorized to study or investigate—

(A) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption, or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith, doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, or individuals or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Government's relationships with the public;

(B) the extent to which criminal or other improper practices or activities are, or have been, engaged in the field of labor-management relations or in groups or organizations of employees or employers, to the detriment of interests of the public, employers, or employees, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect such interests against the occurrence of such practices or activities;

(C) organized criminal activity which may operate in or otherwise utilize the facilities of interstate or international commerce in furtherance of any transactions and the manner and extent to which, and the identity of the persons, firms, or corporations, or other entities by whom such utilization is being made, and further, to study and investigate the manner in which and the extent to which persons engaged in organized criminal activity have infiltrated lawful business enterprise, and to study the adequacy of Federal laws to prevent the operations of organized crime in interstate or international commerce, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect the public against such practices or activities;

(D) all other aspects of crime and lawlessness within the United States which have an impact upon or affect the national health, welfare, and safety, including but not limited to investment fraud schemes, commodity and security fraud, computer fraud, and the use of offshore banking and corporate facilities to carry out criminal objectives;

(E) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of the Government with particular reference to—

(i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes as tested against the requirements imposed by the rapidly mounting complexity of national security problems;

(ii) the capacity of present national security staffing, methods, and processes to make full use of the Nation's resources of knowledge and talents;

(iii) the adequacy of present intergovernmental relations between the United States and international organizations principally concerned with national security of which the United States is a member; and

(iv) legislative and other proposals to improve these methods, processes, and relationships;

(F) the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government involved in the control and management of energy shortages including, but not limited to, their performance with respect to—

(i) the collection and dissemination of accurate statistics on fuel demand and supply;

(ii) the implementation of effective energy conservation measures;

(iii) the pricing of energy in all forms;

(iv) coordination of energy programs with State and local government;

(v) control of exports of scarce fuels;

(vi) the management of tax, import, pricing, and other policies affecting energy supplies;

(vii) maintenance of the independent sector of the petroleum industry as a strong competitive force;

(viii) the allocation of fuels in short supply by public and private entities;

(ix) the management of energy supplies owned or controlled by the Government;

(x) relations with other oil producing and consuming countries;

(xi) the monitoring of compliance by governments, corporations, or individuals with the laws and regulations governing the allocation, conservation, or pricing of energy supplies; and

(xii) research into the discovery and development of alternative energy supplies; and

(G) the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to the operations and management of Federal regulatory policies and programs.

(2) EXTENT OF INQUIRIES.—In carrying out the duties provided in paragraph (1), the inquiries of this committee or any subcommittee of the committee shall not be construed to be limited to the records, functions, and operations of any particular branch of the Government and may extend to the records and activities of any persons, corporation, or other entity.

(3) SPECIAL COMMITTEE AUTHORITY.—For the purposes of this subsection, the committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, or its chairman, or any other member of the



committee or subcommittee designated by the chairman is authorized, in its, his, her, or their discretion—

(A) to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents;

(B) to hold hearings;

(C) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recess, and adjournment periods of the Senate;

(D) to administer oaths; and

(E) to take testimony, either orally or by sworn statement, or, in the case of staff members of the Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, by deposition in accordance with the Committee Rules of Procedure.

(4) **AUTHORITY OF OTHER COMMITTEES.**—Nothing contained in this subsection shall affect or impair the exercise of any other standing committee of the Senate of any power, or the discharge by such committee of any duty, conferred or imposed upon it by the Standing Rules of the Senate or by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

(5) **SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.**—All subpoenas and related legal processes of the committee and any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee authorized under Senate Resolution 70 (117th Congress) agreed to February 24, 2021, are authorized to continue.

### III. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED AND CONSIDERED

During the 118th Congress, 450 Senate bills and 118 House bills were referred to the Committee for consideration. In addition, 6 Senate Resolutions and 1 Senate Concurrent Resolutions were referred to the Committee.

The Committee reported 169 bills; and additional measures were discharged.

Of the legislation received by the Committee, 97 measures became public laws, including 68 postal naming bills.

### IV. HEARINGS

During the 118th Congress, the Committee held 37 hearings on legislation, oversight issues, and nominations. Hearing titles and dates follow. The Committee also held 23 scheduled business meetings.

Lists of hearings with copies of statements by Members and witnesses, with archives going back to 1997, are online at the Committee's Website, <https://hsgac.senate.gov/>.

*Nomination of Colleen J. Shogan to be Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration.* February 28, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–24).

This one paneled hearing considered the nomination of Colleen J. Shogan to be Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration.

*Artificial Intelligence: Risks and Opportunities.* March 8, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–25).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the risks and opportunities facing government agencies, industry, and civil society regarding the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies, and to explore potential policy approaches to both support innovation and ensure responsible use. The witnesses discussed topics such as safety, accountability, civil rights and civil liberties, the future of work, economic competitiveness, and national security as they pertain to AI.

Witnesses: Alexandra Reeve Givens, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for Democracy and Technology; Suresh Venkatasubramanian, Ph.D., Professor of Computer Science and Data Science, Brown University; Jason Matheny, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, RAND Corporation.

*In Need of a Checkup: Examining the Cybersecurity Risks to the Healthcare Sector.* March 16, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–55).

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the cybersecurity challenges facing the Health Care and Public Health critical infrastructure sector and the risks that cyber-attacks will continue to pose in the future. The witnesses discussed topics such as the hazards of exposing facility, medical, patient, and other sensitive data to adversaries, the challenges healthcare organizations of various sizes face in improving their cybersecurity posture, and the burdens placed on communities when healthcare organizations experience cyber-attacks. Additionally, the witnesses provided proposals for ways the Federal government can support the sector in their efforts to mitigate these risks.

Witnesses: Scott Dresen, President, Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer, Corewell Health; Kate Pierce, Senior Virtual Information Security Officer, Fortified Health Security; Greg Garcia, Executive Director, Cyber Security Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council; Stirling Martin, Senior Vice President, Chief Privacy and Security Officer, Epic Systems.

*Drug Shortage Health and National Security Risks: Underlying Causes and Needed Reforms.* March 22, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–56).

The purpose of this hearing was to inform members of the committee about key issues related to shortages for critical drugs. The hearing examined shortages for key drugs commonly needed in hospital and health care settings and the impact these shortages have on patients, hospitals, and health care providers. The hearing will be an opportunity to hear from experts about the underlying causes for the majority of drug shortages and to explore potential reforms. The hearing will cover topics including manufacturing costs for highly-complex sterile injectable generic drugs, reliance on foreign and geographically concentrated sources for critical drugs, and supply chain transparency, including upstream supply chain transparency.

Witnesses: Andrew Shuman, M.D., Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Chief of the Clinical Ethics Service, Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine, Uni-

versity of Michigan Medical School; Vimala Raghavendran, Vice President, Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Center, U.S. Pharmacopeia; Erin Fox, PharmD, Associate Chief Pharmacy Officer of Shared Services, Adjunct Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Utah; John C. Goodman, Ph.D., President, Goodman Institute for Public Policy Research.

*Modernizing the Government's Classification System.* March 23, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–57).

The purpose of this hearing was to assess the problem of over-classification within the federal government and to explore possible reforms to the classification system. This hearing allows the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to examine how over-classification prevents government efficiency, contributes to the mishandling of classified information, and keeps the public in the dark about matters critical to the public interest.

Witnesses: Elizabeth Goitein, Senior Director, Liberty and National Security Program, Brennan Center for Justice; Thomas Blanton, Director, National Security Archive, The George Washington University; John Fitzpatrick, Former Director, Information Security Oversight Office; Patrick G. Eddington, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute.

*The FY24 DHS Budget: Resources and Authorities Requested to Protect and Secure the Homeland.* April 18, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–213).

The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's budget request and legislative priorities for Fiscal Year 2024. The witness addressed the need for additional resources and authorities to protect and secure the homeland, and also how the Department's budget request met the current and future homeland security needs of the nation.

Witness: The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

*GAO's 2023 High Risk List: Recommendations for Reducing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.* April 20, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–67).

The purpose of this hearing was to focus on government operations that the GAO has placed on its 2023 "High Risk List." Since 1990, the Government Accountability Office has begun each new Congress by reporting on government programs or operations that it considers "high risk" due to their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Witnesses: The Honorable Eugene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Accompanied by: Nick Marinos, Managing Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity; Charles Johnson, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice; and Jessica Farb, Managing Director, Health Care.

*Improving Access to Federal Grants for Underserved Communities.* May 2, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–68).

Grants constitute a significant portion of government spending and serve as a widely utilized policy instrument for Congress. At the same time, many organizations and communities report that

applying for and managing grants is challenging - so challenging that some are deterred from applying at all. The purpose of this hearing was to learn about these challenges, which informed the Committee's efforts to increase transparency, minimize administrative burden and waste, and ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds in relation to grants.

Witnesses: Jeff Arkin, Director, Strategic Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Megan Elliott, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the City of Detroit, Director, Office of Development and Grants; Matthew Hanson, Associate Managing Director, Witt O'Brien's.

*Artificial Intelligence in Government.* May 16, 2023. (S. Hearing 118-XXX).

The purpose of this hearing was to brief Committee members on the current landscape of government procurement, use, and governance of artificial intelligence (AI). In this second part to this series, this hearing provided an opportunity to identify issues agencies should consider when adopting automated decision-making or AI systems, including transparency, trustworthiness, explainability, and fairness, among others. This hearing informed the Committee's work to advance responsible innovation and use of AI in government while upholding individuals' civil rights and liberties.

Witnesses: Richard A. Eppink, Of Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho Foundation; Taka Ariga, Chief Data Scientist, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Lynne E. Parker, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor and Director, AI Tennessee Initiative, University of Tennessee; Daniel E. Ho, Professor, Stanford Law School; Jacob Siegel, Writer.

*FASTA Implementation and Optimizing the Efficient Use of Federal Property.* June 8, 2023. (S. Hearing 118-212).

While the Federal Assets Sale Transfer Act (FASTA) set out to streamline and simplify the disposal of unneeded federal real property (buildings, land, structures), its effectiveness is subject to debate. The purpose of this hearing was to examine the optimization of the federal footprint and whether FASTA has effectively contributed to this goal.

Witnesses: Witnesses: Nina M. Albert, Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, U.S. General Services Administration; David Marroni, Physical Infrastructure, U.S. Government Accountability Office; The Honorable Nick Rahall, Board Member, Public Buildings Reform Board.

*Nominations of The Honorable Robert G. Taub to be a Commissioner to the Postal Regulatory Commission, Tanya M. Jones Bosier to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Daniel L.H. Nguyen to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Kenechukwu O. Okocha to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.* September 7, 2023. (S. Hearing 118-134).

This hearing considered the nominations of The Honorable Robert G. Taub to be a Commissioner to the Postal Regulatory Commission, Tanya M. Jones Bosier to be an Associate Judge to the Su-

perior Court of the District of Columbia, Daniel L.H. Nguyen to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Kenechukwu O. Okocha to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

*Governing AI Through Acquisition and Procurement.* September 14, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–135).

As development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) accelerates across the country and the world, the federal government’s approach to acquiring and procuring AI warrants examination. The attributes of AI systems—such as their complexity, extensive reliance on data, and lack of transparency—coupled with the implications of AI systems for our civil liberties and constitutional rights necessitates thoughtful scrutiny. In the third part of the artificial intelligence series, the purpose of this hearing was to brief Committee members on the challenges and opportunities associated with government acquisition and procurement of AI, and to offer recommendations for how Congress should engage on this issue.

Witnesses: Rayid Ghani, Distinguished Career Professor, Machine Learning Department and the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University; Fei-Fei Li, Ph.D., Sequoia Professor, Computer Science Department and Co-Director, Human-Centered AI Institute, Stanford University; Devaki Raj, Former Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, CrowdAI; William Roberts, Director of Emerging Technologies, ASI Government; Michael Shellenberger, Founder, Public.

*Nominations of Thomas G. Day to be a Commissioner to the Postal Regulatory Commission, Katherine E. Oler to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Judith E. Pipe to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.* September 21, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–137).

This hearing considered the nominations of Thomas G. Day to be a Commissioner to the Postal Regulatory Commission, Katherine E. Oler to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Judith E. Pipe to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., to be an Associate Judge to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

*Threats to the Homeland.* October 31, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–162).

The purpose of this hearing was to update the public understanding of prevailing threats to the security of the United States of America. The witnesses highlighted the most pressing domestic and foreign threats faced by the United States, as determined by their respective agencies. The witnesses also discussed efforts their agencies took to counter these threats.

Witnesses: The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; The Honorable Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice; The Honorable Christine Abizaid, Director, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., to be National Cyber Director, Executive Office of the President, Jeff Rezmovic to be Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne E. Summerlin to be General Counsel to the Federal Labor Relations Authority.* November 2, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–163).

This hearing considered the nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., to be National Cyber Director, Executive Office of the President, Jeff Rezmovic to be Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne E. Summerlin to be General Counsel to the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

*The Philosophy of AI: Learning from History, Shaping our Future.* November 8, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–164).

In the fourth part of the artificial intelligence series, the purpose of this hearing was to brief Committee members on the broader societal context for and impacts of advances in artificial intelligence, grounded in witnesses' expertise in the intersections of economics, history, philosophy, ethics, and constitutional law with technological change.

Witnesses: Daron Acemoglu, Ph.D., Institute Professor, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Margaret Hu, Taylor Reveley Research Professor and Professor of Law, William and Mary Law School; Shannon Vallor, Ph.D., Baillie Gifford Chair in the Ethics of Data and Artificial Intelligence, Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh.

*Examining the Security of Federal Facilities.* November 29, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–241).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine current threats to federal facilities, the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and Inter-agency Security Committee's (ISC) roles in securing these facilities, and factors that limit security operations.

Witnesses: Richard Cline, Director, Federal Protective Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Scott Breor, Associate Director, Security Programs, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; David Marroni, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*Nominations of The Honorable Hampton Y. Dellinger to be Special Counsel in the Office of Special Counsel, and The Honorable Henry J. Kerner to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.* November 30, 2023. (S. Hearing 118–240).

This hearing considered the nominations of The Honorable Hampton Y. Dellinger to be Special Counsel in the Office of Special Counsel, and The Honorable Henry J. Kerner to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

*Harnessing AI to Improve Government Services and Customer Experience.* January 10, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–225).

In the first part of the artificial intelligence series, the purpose of this hearing was to examine the potential application of artificial intelligence (AI) by federal agencies to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of government services and improve cus-

tomers experience (CX). Witnesses provided insights into current CX modernization efforts and discuss strategies for the safe adoption of AI tools in public service delivery. The hearing considered (1) current obstacles hindering AI adoption within federal agencies; (2) risks and benefits of integrating AI in public-facing service delivery; and (3) recommendations that could enable the federal government to effectively utilize AI to improve citizen engagement and service delivery.

Witnesses: Jennifer Pahlka, Author, Recording America: Why Government is Failing in the Digital Age and How We Can Do Better, and Former U.S. Deputy Chief Technology Officer (2013–2014), Office of Science and Technology Policy; Beth Noveck, Chief Innovation Officer, State of New Jersey, and Professor of Experiential AI, Northeastern University; Beth Blauer, Associate Vice Provost for Public Sector Innovation, Johns Hopkins University.

*The Cyber Safety Review Board: Expectations, Outcomes, and Enduring Questions.* January 17, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–226).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB) and its activities. The witnesses discussed their views on the appropriate role of the CSRB, benefits and shortcomings of previous reviews, and their assessments of the governance of the board, including membership and processes for selecting topics and completing reviews. Furthermore, the witnesses highlighted their proposals for ways to improve how the Board supports the cybersecurity ecosystem.

Witnesses: Tarah M. Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer, Red Queen Dynamics; John Miller, Senior Vice President of Policy, Trust, Data, and Technology, and General Counsel, Information Technology Industry Council; and Trey Herr, Ph.D., Director, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council.

*A Nation on Fire: Responding to the Increasing Wildfire Threat.* March 14, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–262).

The purpose of this hearing was to inform members of the committee about the increasing threat of wildfires to communities and steps the federal government can take to improve disaster response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. The hearing covered topics such as the recent Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission report, the increase in severity of wildfires, the wildfire smoke that impacted communities across the country last summer, and recent destructive wildfire disasters.

Witnesses: Lori Moore-Merrell, DrPH, Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; David W. Fogerson, Chief, Division on Emergency Management and Office of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety, State of Nevada; Jamie Barnes, Director, Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Department of Natural Resources, State of Utah; Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager and Flood Control District Coordinator, Coconino County, State of Arizona; Christopher P. Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*Reforming Federal Records Management to Improve Transparency and Accountability.* March 20, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–263).

The purpose of this hearing was to assess Executive Branch compliance with federal recordkeeping and disclosure laws. The hearing examined how federal agencies’ failure to retain and disclose records obstructs Congressional oversight, and prevents transparency and accountability for American taxpayers. Additionally, as records and information continue to modernize, this hearing examined ways to ensure the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is equipped to handle the rapid proliferation of electronic records, including when agencies use applications that automatically delete messages and when agency personnel use personal email addresses to avoid accountability. Witnesses helped HSGAC 1) understand how gaps in existing records retention and agency non-compliance with Freedom of Information Act requests limit public accountability and 2) explore options to strengthen transparency for the American public.

Witnesses: Anne Weismann, Outside Counsel, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and the Project on Government Oversight; Gary Ruskin, Executive Director and Co-Founder, U.S. Right to Know.

*Oversight of the United States Postal Service.* April 16, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–274).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the U.S. Postal Service and its current service, operations, and finances. The committee discussed topics including, but not limited to, the “Delivering for America Plan” and changes to the Postal Service’s network; implementation of the Postal Service Reform Act; and the Postal Service’s overall financial stability and performance in carrying out its service obligations.

Witnesses: Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, United States Postal Service; The Honorable Roman Martinez IV, Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service; The Honorable Michael Kubayanda, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission; Tammy Hull, Inspector General, United States Postal Service.

*Nominations of the Honorable Colleen D. Kiko and the Honorable Anne M. Wagner to be Members, Federal Labor Relations Authority, and David Huitema to be Director, Office of Government Ethics.* April 17, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–275).

This hearing considered the nominations of the Honorable Colleen D. Kiko and the Honorable Anne M. Wagner to be Members, Federal Labor Relations Authority, and David Huitema to be Director, Office of Government Ethics.

*The FY25 DHS Budget: Resources and Authorities Requested to Protect and Secure the Homeland.* April 18, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–XXX).

The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the Department of Homeland Security’s budget request and legislative priorities for Fiscal Year 2025. In particular, the witness addressed the need for additional resources and authorities to protect and secure the



homeland, and also how the Department's budget request meets the current and future homeland security needs of the nation.

Witness: The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

*Restoring Congressional Oversight over Emergency Powers: Exploring Options to Reform the National Emergencies Act.* May 22, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–343).

The purpose of this hearing was to inform members of the committee about the uses and potential abuses of presidential emergency powers. The hearing reviewed the statutory authorities and constitutional limits associated with presidential emergency powers and explored options for legislative reform to the National Emergencies Act.

Witnesses: Elizabeth Goitein, Senior Director, Liberty & National Security Program, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law; Satya Thallam, Senior Fellow, Foundation for American Innovation; and Gene Healy, Senior Vice President for Policy, Cato Institute.

*Nominations of Sherri M. Beatty Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin C. Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John C. Truong to be Associate Judges, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.* June 4, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–352).

This hearing considered the nominations of Sherri M. Beatty Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin C. Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John C. Truong to be Associate Judges, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

*Streamlining the Federal Cybersecurity Regulatory Process: The Path to Harmonization.* June 5, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–353).

The objective of this hearing was to examine challenges posed by the current cybersecurity regulatory environment for businesses of all sizes across the nation. The witnesses discussed the complexities arising from multiple overlapping regulatory regimes, the compliance difficulties that businesses and organizations encounter, and the efforts underway to promote regulatory harmonization, including the recent Office of the National Cyber Director Request for Information.

Witnesses: Nicholas Leiserson, Assistant National Cyber Director for Cyber Policy and Programs, Office of the National Cyber Director, Executive Office of the President; David Hinchman, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*Origins of COVID-19: An Examination of Available Evidence.* June 18, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–355).

The purpose of this hearing was to evaluate the scientific evidence and related information, available to date, regarding the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The hearing also examined the federal government's efforts to identify the origins of COVID-19.

Witnesses: Gregory D. Koblenz, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director, Biodefense Graduate Program, George Mason University; Robert F. Garry, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Dean, School of

Medicine, Tulane University; Steven C. Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Former Faculty, Stanford University School of Medicine; Richard E. Ebright, Ph.D., Board of Governors, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Laboratory Director, Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Rutgers University.

*Oversight of the Permitting Council: Improving Transparency and Coordination.* July 10, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–375).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine the Permitting Council's role in streamlining permitting processes and enhancing intergovernmental coordination. This hearing reviewed the Permitting Council's oversight strategy and agency priorities.

Witness: Eric Beightel, Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.

*Risky Research: Oversight of U.S. Taxpayer Funded High-Risk Virus Research.* July 11, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–376).

The purpose of this hearing was to examine U.S. Government policies and guidance regarding the funding, transparency, and oversight of specific categories of federally funded high-risk life sciences research, including gain of function research, dual use research of concern, research involving pathogens with enhanced pandemic potential, and surveillance projects involving high-consequence pathogens. The witnesses discussed U.S. Government policies and guidance, including any strengths and gaps in current policy.

Witnesses: Gerald W. Parker, DVM, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Global One Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, and Director, Biosecurity and Pandemic Preparedness Policy Program, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Texas A&M University; Carrie D. Wolinetz, Ph.D., Senior Principal and Chair, Health & Bioscience Innovation Practice, Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC; Robert R. Redfield, M.D., Former Director (2018–2021), Center for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Nominations of the Honorable Ann C. Fisher and the Honorable Ashley E. Poling to be Commissioners, Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez and Joseph R. Palmore to be Associate Judges, District of Columbia Court of Appeals.* July 25, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–378).

This hearing considered the nominations of the Honorable Ann C. Fisher and the Honorable Ashley E. Poling to be Commissioners, Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez and Joseph R. Palmore to be Associate Judges, District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

*Examination of the Security Failures Leading to the Assassination Attempt on Former President Trump.* July 30, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–379).

The objective of this hearing was to examine the security failures that led to the assassination attempt of former President Trump and the loss of life of an innocent bystander and injuries to several

others during a campaign rally in Butler, PA, on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Witnesses: Ronald L. Rowe, Jr., Acting Director, United States Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Paul Abbate, Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

*Ensuring a Trustworthy Government: Examining the National Security Risks of Replacing Nonpartisan Civil Servants with Political Appointees.* September 17, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–436).

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the roles of nonpartisan civil servants and political appointees in national security and federal operations, including with respect to agency leadership decisions, employee accountability, and whistleblowing.

Witnesses: The Honorable Elaine Duke, Former Deputy Secretary (2017–2018), and Former Under Secretary for Management (2008–2010), U.S. Department of Homeland Security; The Honorable Peter Levine, Former Acting Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness (2016–2017), and Former Deputy Chief Management Officer (2015–2016), U.S. Department of Defense; Jenny Mattingley, Vice President of Government Affairs, Partnership for Public Service; Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project.

*Safeguarding the Homeland: Examining Conflicts of Interest in Federal Contracting to Protect America's Future.* September 24, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–437).

This hearing will examine potential conflicts of interest involving federal contractors and the importance of mitigating these risks while simultaneously maintaining economic dynamism among businesses operating as federal contractors.

Witnesses: Jessica Tillipman, Associate Dean for Government Procurement Law Studies and Government Contracts Advisory Council Distinguished Professorial Lecturer in Government Contracts Law, Practice & Policy, George Washington University Law School; Rush Doshi, Ph.D., C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia Studies, Council on Foreign Relations and Assistant Professor, Georgetown University; Clark Packard, Research Fellow, Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, Cato Institute; Bryan Riley, Director, Free Trade Initiative, National Taxpayers Union.

*Nominations of the Honorable Val Butler Demings, the Honorable William Zollars, and the Honorable Gordon Hartogensis to be Governors, United States Postal Service, and James G. Lake and Nicholas G. Miranda to be Associate Judges, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.* November 14, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–307).

This hearing considered the nominations of the Honorable Val Butler Demings, the Honorable William Zollars, and the Honorable Gordon Hartogensis to be Governors, United States Postal Service, and James G. Lake and Nicholas G. Miranda to be Associate Judges, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

*Oversight of the United States Postal Service: Understanding Proposed Service Changes.* December 5, 2024. (S. Hearing 118–518).

The purpose of this hearing was to provide oversight of the U.S. Postal Service and its plans for service, operations, and finances. The witnesses discussed topics including, but not limited to, the Postal Service’s plans for service changes under review by the Postal Regulatory Commission; Postal Service transparency and accountability to Members of Congress and stakeholders; and the Postal Service’s overall financial stability.

Witnesses: Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, United States Postal Service.

## V. REPORTS, PRINTS, AND GAO REPORTS

During the 118th Congress, the Committee prepared and issued 170 reports and 2 Committee Prints on the following topics.

Reports issues by the Subcommittees, are listed in their respective sections of this document.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and its Subcommittees for the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress S. Rept. 118–1.

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended. S. Rept. 118–12, S. 264.

To amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act. S. Rept. 118–13, re S. 829.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely. S. Rept. 118–14, re. S. 349.

To amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–15, re. S. 933.

To require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry. S. Rept. 118–16, re. S. 206.

To improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program. S. Rept. 118–17, re. S. 670.

To improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–18, re. S. 709.

To require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–19, re. S. 108.

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a national risk management cycle, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–20, re. S. 824.

To require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at

ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities. S. Rept. 118–23, re. S. 243.

To establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–24, re. S. 310.

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective. S. Rept. 118–25, re. S. 679.

To improve plain writing and public experience, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–26, re. S. 717.

To require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism. S. Rept. 118–27, re. S. 794.

To require each agency, in providing notice of a rulemaking, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule. S. Rept. 118–28, re. S. 111.

To prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–29, re. S. 257.

To modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–30, re. S. 479.

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives. S. Rept. 118–31, re. S. 780.

To establish the duties of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency regarding open source software security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–32, re. S. 917.

To authorize the Administrator of General Services to establish an enhanced use lease pilot program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–35, re. S. 211.

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–36, re. S. 666.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–37, re. S. 932.

To streamline the sharing of information among Federal disaster assistance agencies, to expedite the delivery of life-saving assistance to disaster survivors, to speed the recovery of communities from disasters, to protect the security and privacy of information provided by disaster survivors, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–39, re. S. 1528.

To provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–40, re. S. 1549.

To provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–46, re. S. 945.

To establish a Government-wide approach to improving digital identity, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–47, re. S. 884.

To improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–73, re. S. 931.

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance. S. Rept. 118–74, re. S. 1858.

To require an interagency study to produce a security assessment process on adjacent space to high-security leased space to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–82, re. S. 1868.

To provide for drone security. S. Rept. 118–87, re. S. 473.

To amend provisions relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–88, re. S. 1510.

To direct agencies to be transparent when using automated and augmented systems to interact with the public or make critical decisions, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–89, re. S. 1865.

To establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–90, re. S. 1886.

To require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–91, re. S. 2073.

To require a report on Federal support to the cybersecurity of commercial satellite systems, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–92, re. S. 1425.

To create intergovernmental coordination between State, local, Tribal, and territorial jurisdictions, and the Federal Government to combat United States reliance on the People's Republic of China and other covered countries for critical minerals and rare earth metals, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–93, re. S. 1871.

To require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government. S. Rept. 118–94, re. S. 1973.

To provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–95, re. S. 285.

To establish a Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve in the Department of Homeland Security as a pilot project to address the cybersecurity needs of the United States with respect to national security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–96, re. S. 885.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for special base rates of pay for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–97, re. S. 2272.

To correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers. S. Rept. 118–101, re. S. 311.

To establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–102, re. S. 1137.

To require an interagency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States. S. Rept. 118–103, re. S. 1443.

To restrict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–104, re. S. 1464.

To require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry. S. Rept. 118–105, re. S. 1822.

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish, or otherwise ensure the provision of, a training program on artificial intelligence for Federal management officials and supervisors, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–109, re. S. 1564.

To add the Consumer Product Safety Commission to the list of agencies required to be represented on the PFAS interagency working group. S. Rept. 118–112, re. S. 820.

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace. S. Rept. 118–115, re. S. 2219.

To require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–116, re. S. 1332.

To authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–117, re. S. 2256.

To prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS. S. Rept. 118–118, re. S. 2283.

To establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–119, re. S. 2291.

To make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–120, re. S. 2685.

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–123, re. S. 61.

To establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and an Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–124, re. S. 1798.

To require transparency in notices of funding opportunity, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–125, re. S. 2260.

To improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–126, re. S. 2286.

To require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–137, re. S. 2414.

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–157, re. S. 1258.

To require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–160, re. S. 3613.

To amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–161, re. S. 3648.

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–170, re. S. 1560.

To require the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a campaign program to raise awareness regarding the importance of cybersecurity in the United States. S. Rept. 118–171, re. S. 1835.

To require the reduction of the reliance and expenditures of the Federal Government on legacy information technology systems, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–172, re. S. 2032.

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–173, re. S. 2150.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–174, re. S. 3029.

To establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–186, re. S. 4036.

To amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–194, re. S. 5473.

To provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–195, re. S. 6249.

To ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–202, re. S. 1524.

To require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–210, re. S. 3664.

To require governmentwide source code sharing, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–213, re. S. 3594.

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–214, re. S. 4305.

To authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–215, re. S. 4698.

To establish the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers Council, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers, and Artificial Intelligence Governance Boards, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–216, re. S. 2293.

To improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–217, re. S. 2866.



To amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects. S. Rept. 118–218, re. S. 3071.

To amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities. S. Rept. 118–219, re. S. 3698.

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take certain actions with respect to the health insurance program carried out under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–220, re. S. 4035.

To amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements. S. Rept. 118–226, re. S. 4716.

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–228, re. S. 3067.

To prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–229, re. S. 3558.

To improve the President's Cup Cybersecurity Competitions. S. Rept. 118–234, re. S. 3635.

To amend title 44, United States Code, to reform the management of Federal records, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–235, re. S. 4042.

To require the development of a workforce plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. S. Rept. 118–236, re. S. 4181.

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–237, re. S. 4654.

To require the National Cyber Director to submit to Congress a plan to establish an institute within the Federal Government to serve as a centralized resource and training center for Federal cyber workforce development. S. Rept. 118–238, re. S. 4715.

To improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–239, re. S. 6174.

To clarify task and delivery order solicitation and contract requirements. S. Rept. 118–242, re. S. 3626.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–243, re. S. 3254.

To implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring. S. Rept. 118–250, re. S. 59.

To establish Image Adjudicator and Supervisory Image Adjudicator positions in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations. S. Rept. 118–251, re. S. 2278.

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve coordination between the Do Not Pay working system and Federal and

State agencies authorized to use the system. S. Rept. 118–252, re. S. 2492.

To require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations. S. Rept. 118–253, re. S. 4419.

To establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–254, re. S. 4630.

To enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–255, re. S. 4676.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–256, re. H.R. 4403.

To direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–257, re. H.R. 4467.

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–258, re. H.R. 5528.

To amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–264, re. S. 4667.

To sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–265, re. S. 5093.

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs. S. Rept. 118–266, re. S. 559.

To increase the pay and enhance the training of United States Border Patrol agents, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–267, re. S. 1444.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide explicit authority for the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to work with international partners on cybersecurity, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–268, re. S. 1862.

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–269, re. S. 1897.

To require a pilot program on the use of big data analytics to identify vessels evading sanctions and export controls and to require a report on the availability in the United States of emerging and foundational technologies subject to export controls. S. Rept. 118–270, re. S. 2248.

To improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–271, re. S. 2251.

To improve border security through regular assessments and evaluations of the Checkpoint Program Management Office and effective training of U.S. Border Patrol agents regarding drug seizures. S. Rept. 118–272, re. S. 2367.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority. S. Rept. 118–273, re. S. 4024.

To provide for a pilot program to improve contracting outcomes, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–274, re. S. 4055.

To establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border. S. Rept. 118–275, re. S. 4062.

To improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–276, re. S. 4066.

To amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum education requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–277, re. S. 4631.

To amend title 5, United States Code, concerning restrictions on the participation of certain Federal employees in partisan political activity, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–278, re. S. 4656.

To require the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assess current efforts to respond to hazardous weather and water events at or near United States borders and, to the extent such efforts may be improved, to develop a hazardous weather and water events preparedness and response strategy, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–279, re. S. 4672.

To enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector. S. Rept. 118–280, re. S. 4697.

To amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–281, re. S. 5092.

To require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–282, re. S. 5098.

To amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–283, re. S. 5887.

To ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–284, re. S. 7219.

To amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–285, re. S. 7524.

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations. S. Rept. 118–286, re. S. 7525.

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding an agreement for integrated cross border aerial law enforcement operations, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–287, re. S. 4294.

To amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–288, re. S. 2924.

To ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–289, re. S. 3139.

To increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry. S. Rept. 118–290, re. S. 1253.

To enable safe, responsible, and agile procurement, development, and use of artificial intelligence by the Federal Government, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–291, re. S. 4495.

To amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–292, re. S. 4679.

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster. S. Rept. 118–293, re. S. 4898.

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–294, re. S. 4900.

To prescribe requirements relating to the management of the Federal property commonly known as Plum Island, New York, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–295, re. S. 5099.

To amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–296, re. S. 5310.

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–297, re. S. 255.

To amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–298, re. S. 272.

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–299, re. S. 131.

To establish and maintain a database within each agency for executive branch ethics records of noncareer appointees. S. Rept. 118–300, re. S. 2270.

To amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–301, re. S. 3926.

To modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–302, re. S. 4700.

To require agencies to create consistent organizational hierarchies, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–303, re. S. 5312.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–304, re. S. 3208.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller

General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–305, re. S. 6972.

To amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–306, re. S. 7528.

To prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–307, re. S. 8631.

To amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–308, re. S. 9592.

To amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prevent Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children from trading stocks and owning stocks, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–309, re. S. 1171.

To provide for the creation of the missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel records, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–310, re. S. 2315.

To advance Federal Government innovation through the implementation and use of multi-cloud computing software technology, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–311, re. S. 2871.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–312, re. S. 3015.

To amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to require the timely appointment of agency transition officials, to ensure adequate performance and oversight of required transition-related preparation, to require new guidance for agencies and possible transition teams, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–313, re. S. 3654.

To prohibit conflict of interests among consulting firms that simultaneously contract with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the United States Government, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–314, re. S. 3810.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make executive agency telework policies transparent, to track executive agency use of telework, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–315, re. S. 4043.

To provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations. S. Rept. 118–316, re. S. 4373.

To require agencies to use information and communications technology products obtained from original equipment manufacturers or authorized resellers, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–317, re. S. 4651.

To ensure a timely, fair, meaningful, and transparent process for individuals to seek redress because they were wrongly identified as a threat under the screening and inspection regimes used by the Department of Homeland Security, to require a report on the effectiveness of enhanced screening programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–318, re. S. 4681.

To limit the consideration of marijuana use when making an employment suitability or security clearance determination, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–319, re. S. 4711.

To require Federal contractors to implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–320, re. S. 5028.

To require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–322, re. S. 5102.

To require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024. S. Rept. 118–323, re. S. 5105.

To amend section 3520A of title 44, United States Code, to extend the Chief Data Officer Council’s sunset and add new authorities for improving Federal agency data governance, including to enable reliable and secure adoption of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–324, re. S. 5109.

To establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions. S. Rept. 118–325, re. S. 5133.

To amend title 5, United States Code, to address the responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services with respect to Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–326, re. S. 5302.

To improve section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. S. Rept. 118–327, re. S. 5313.

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–328, re. S. 5315.

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–329, re. S. 5317.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–330, re. S. 5319.

To amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–332, re. H.R. 5527.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–333, re. H.R. 6231.

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–334, re. H.R. 7832.

To amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award

schedule program, and for other purposes. S. Rept. 118–335, re. H.R. 9596.

#### COMMITTEE PRINTS

The Committee issued the following Committee Prints during the 118th Congress:

Rules of Procedure. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Printed. 38 pp. S. Prt. 118–6).

Rules of Procedure. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Printed. 19 pp. S. Prt. 118–7).

#### GAO REPORTS

Also during the 118th Congress, the Government Accountability Office issued 170 reports at the request of the Committee. GAO reports requested by the Subcommittees appear in their respective sections. Reports are listed here by title, GAO number, and release date.

Veterans Benefits: VA Could Enhance Outreach For It's Solid Start Program By Increasing Collaboration With Veterans Organizations. GAO–23–105699. January 5, 2023.

U.S. Postal Service: Few Differences In On-Time Performance Between Rural And Urban Areas. GAO–23–105169. January 12, 2023.

DOD Financial Management: Greater Attention And Accountability Needed Over Government-Furnished Property. GAO–23–105699. January 05, 2023.

Public Health Preparedness: HHS Could Improve Oversight Of Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens. GAO–23–105455. January 18, 2023.

COVID–19: HHS Funds Allocated To Support Disproportionately Affected Communities. GAO–23–105500. February 24, 2023.

Capitol Attack: Federal Agencies Identified Some Threats, But Did Not Fully Process And Share Information Prior To January 6, 2021. GAO–23–104793SU. January 31, 2023.

Emergency Relief Funds: Significant Improvements Are Needed To Address Fraud And Improper Payments. GAO–106556. February 01, 2023.

Pandemic Origins: Technologies, Challenges, And Policy Options To Support Investigations. GAO–23–106562. February 01, 2023.

State Small Business Credit Initiative: Improved Planning Could Help Treasury Limit Additional Delays. GAO–23–105293. February 02, 2023.

Supply Chain Resilience: Agencies Are Taking Steps To Expand Diplomatic Engagement And Coordinate With International Partners. GAO–23–105534. February 02, 2023.

Money Market Mutual Funds: Pandemic Revealed Unresolved Vulnerabilities. GAO–23–105535. February 02, 2023.

Public Health Preparedness: HHS Should Plan For Medical Countermeasure Development And Manufacturing Risks. GAO–23–105713. February 02, 2023.

Critical Infrastructure Protection: Time Frames To Complete DHS Efforts Would Help Sector Risk Management Agencies Imple-

ment Statutory Responsibilities. GAO-23-105806. February 07, 2023.

Unemployment Insurance: DOL Needs To Address Substantial Pandemic UI Fraud And Reduce Persistent Risks. GAO-23-106586. February 08, 2023.

Department Of Education: Additional Data Collection Would Help Assess The Performance Of A Program Supporting College Students With Disabilities. GAO-23-105551. February 15, 2023.

Financial Audit: FY 2022 And FY 2021 Consolidated Financial Statements Of The U.S. Government. GAO-23-105837. February 16, 2023.

Data Center Optimization: Agencies Continue To Report Progress. GAO-23-105946. February 27, 2023.

Capitol Attack: Federal Agencies Identified Some Threats, But Did Not Fully Process And Share Information Prior To January 6, 2021. GAO-23-106625. February 28, 2023.

2020 Census: A More Complete Lessons Learned Process For Cost And Schedule Would Help The Next Decennial. GAO-23-105819. March 02, 2023.

Drug Manufacturing: FDA Should Fully Assess Its Efforts To Encourage Innovation. GAO-23-105650. March 10, 2023.

DHS Annual Assessment: Major Acquisition Programs Are Generally Meeting Goals, But Cybersecurity Policy Needs Clarification. GAO-23-105641SU. March 16, 2023.

COVID-19 In Nursing Homes: Experts Identified Actions Aimed At Improving Infection Prevention And Control. GAO-23-105613. March 20, 2023.

2022 Lobbying Disclosure: Observations On Compliance With Requirements. GAO-23-105989. March 31, 2023.

Government Performance Management: Actions Needed To Improve Transparency Of Cross-Agency Priority Goals. GAO-23-106354. April 04, 2023.

High-Risk Series: Efforts Made To Achieve Progress Need To Be Maintained And Expanded To Fully Address All Areas. GAO-23-106674. April 20, 2023.

DHS Annual Assessment: Major Acquisition Programs Are Generally Meeting Goals, But Cybersecurity Policy Needs Clarification. GAO-23-106701. April 20, 2023.

Personnel Practices: OPM Can Improve Oversight And Transparency Of Agencies' Hiring Of Political Appointees Into Career Federal Positions. GAO-23-105066. April 27, 2023.

Grants Management: Observations On Challenges With Access, Use, And Oversight. GAO-23-106797. May 02, 2023.

VA Healthcare: Office Of Rural Health Would Benefit From Improved Communication And Developing Performance Goals. GAO-23-105855. May 04, 2023.

Artificial Intelligence: Key Practices To Help Ensure Accountability In Federal Use. GAO-23-106811. May 16, 2023.

COVID Relief: Fraud Schemes And Indicators In SBA Pandemic Programs. GAO-23-105331. May 18, 2023.

F-35 Program: DOD Needs Better Accountability For Global Spare Parts And Reporting Of Losses Worth Millions. GAO-23-106098. May 23, 2023.



Government Performance Management: Leading Practices To Enhance Interagency Collaboration And Address Crosscutting Challenges. GAO-21-105520. May 24, 2023.

Information Technology: DHS Needs To Continue Addressing Critical Legacy Systems. GAO-23-106853. May 31, 2023.

Federal Real Property: Lessons Learned From Setbacks In New Sale And Transfer Process Could Benefit Future Disposal Efforts. GAO-23-106848. June 08, 2023.

Congressional Award Foundation: Review Of The FY 2022 Financial Statement Audit. GAO-23-106672. June 08, 2023.

Federal Research: NIH Could Take Additional Actions To Manage Risks Involving Foreign Subrecipients. GAO-23-106119. June 14, 2023.

2023 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities To Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, And Duplication And Achieve Billions Of Dollars In Financial Benefits. GAO-23-106089. June 14, 2023.

Government Efficiency And Effectiveness: Opportunities To Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, And Duplication And Achieve Billions Of Dollars In Financial Benefits. GAO-23-106864. June 14, 2023.

Meat And Poultry Worker Safety: OSHA Should Determine How To Address Persistent Hazards Exacerbated By COVID-19. GAO-23-105104. June 20, 2023.

DOD Bulk Fuel: Improved Management Over Transactions Could Lead To More Reliable Financial Reporting. GAO-23-105531. June 22, 2023.

COVID-19: GAO Recommendations Can Help Federal Agencies Better Prepare For Future Public Health Emergencies. GAO-23-106554. July 11, 2023.

Evidence-Based Policymaking: Practices To Help Manage And Assess The Results Of Federal Efforts. GAO-23-105460. July 12, 2023.

A Framework For Managing Improper Payments In Emergency Assistance Programs. GAO-23-105876. July 13, 2023.

Federal Fleets: Zero-Emission Vehicle Implementation. GAO-21-105350. July 19, 2023.

Open Matters For Congressional Consideration: Action Can Produce Billions Of Dollars In Financial And Other Benefits For The Nation. GAO-23-106837. July 25, 2023.

Transit Security: FEMA Should Improve Transparency Of Grant Decisions. GAO-23-105956. July 26, 2023.

GSA Commercial Platforms Program: Opportunities Exist To Improve Implementation. GAO-23-106128. July 26, 2023.

Leading Practices: Iterative Cycles Enable Rapid Delivery Of Complex, Innovative Products. GAO-23-106222. July 27, 2023.

Cybersecurity Workforce: National Initiative Needs To Better Assess Its Performance. GAO-23-105945. July 27, 2023.

Federal Buildings: Capital Access And Market Options Are Key Challenges Facing GSA's Sustainability Efforts. GAO-23-105905. September 07, 2023.

U.S. Assistance To Mexico: State Department Should Take Steps To Assess Overall Progress. GAO-23-103795. September 12, 2023.

Biometric Identity System: DHS Needs To Address Significant Shortcoming In Program Management And Privacy. GAO-23-105959. September 12, 2023.

CARES Act: Experts Identified Safeguards To Help Selected HHS Agencies Protect Against Potential Political Interference. GAO-23-106529. September 14, 2023.

COVID-19: U.S. Territory Experiences Could Inform Future Federal Relief. GAO-23-106050. September 19, 2023.

COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund: HRSA Continues To Recover Remaining Payments Due From Providers. GAO-23-106083. September 21, 2023.

COVID-19: USAID Plans To Share Lessons Learned From Efforts To Meet Global Vaccination Goal. GAO-23105579. September 27, 2023.

Credit Cards: Pandemic Assistance Likely Helped Reduce Balances, And Credit Terms Varied Among Demographic Groups. GAO-23-105269. September 29, 2023.

Antiviral Drugs: Economic Incentives And Strategies For Pandemic Preparedness. GAO-23-105847. September 29, 2023.

Federal Contracting: Agencies Can Better Monitor E-Verify Compliance. GAO-24-106219. October 03, 2023.

COVID-19 Relief: States' and Localities' Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending As Of March 31, 2023. GAO-24-106753. October 11, 2023.

Public Health Preparedness: Building And Maintaining Infrastructure Beyond The COVID-19 Pandemic. GAO-24-105891. November 07, 2023.

Federal Spending Transparency: Opportunities To Improve USASPENDING.GOV Data. GAO-24-106214. November 07, 2023.

Department of Homeland Security: Reporting On Border Security Metrics Could Be Improved. GAO-24-106277. November 13, 2023.

COVID-19: Insights From Fraud Schemes And Federal Response Efforts. GAO-24-106353. November 14, 2023.

COVID-19: Insights And Actions For Fraud Prevention. GAO-24-107157. November 14, 2023.

COVID-19 Relief Funds: State Experiences Could Inform Future Federal Relief Funding. GAO-24-106152. November 15, 2023.

Federal Real Property: Agencies Should Provide More Information About Increases In Deferred Maintenance And Repair. GAO-24-105485. November 16, 2023.

Federal Spending Transparency: Opportunities Exist To Improve COVID-19 And Other Grant Subaward Data On USASPENDING.GOV. GAO-24-106237. November 16, 2023.

Biodefense: National Biosurveillance Integration Center Has Taken Steps To Address Challenges, But Could Better Assess Results. GAO-24-106142. November 29, 2023.

Federal Facilities: Continued Oversight Of Security Recommendations Needed. GAO-24-107137. November 29, 2023.

Cybersecurity: Federal Agencies Made Progress, But Need To Fully Implement Incident Response Requirements. GAO-24-105658. December 04, 2023.

Traveler Inspections: DHS Mechanisms To Help Prevent Discrimination And Address Complaints. GAO-24-105383. December 12, 2023.

Technology Modernization Fund: Although Planned Amounts Are Substantial, Projects Have Thus Far Achieved Minimal Savings. GAO-24-106575. December 12, 2023.

Information Technology: Federal Agencies Are Making Progress In Implementing GAO Recommendations. GAO-24-106693. December 12, 2023.

COVID-19 Relief: Treasury Could Improve Its Administration And Oversight Of State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. GAO-24-106027. December 14, 2023.

Federal Reserve Lending Programs: Status Of Monitoring And Main Street Lending Program. GAO-24-106482. December 22, 2023.

Cybersecurity: OMB Should Improve Information Security Performance Metrics. GAO-24-106291. January 04, 2024.

Public Health Preparedness: HHS Emergency Agency Needs To Strengthen Workforce Planning. GAO-24-106108. January 16, 2024.

Cloud Security: Federal Authorization Program Usage Increasing, But Challenges need To Be Fully Addressed. GAO-24-106591. January 18, 2024.

401(K) Plans: Additional Actions Would Help Participants Track And Consolidate Their Retirement Savings. GAO-24-103577. January 18, 2024.

U.S. Ports Of Entry: Update On CBP Public-Private Partnerships. GAO-24-107058. January 24, 2024.

Paid Parental Leave: OPM Should Take Steps To Further Raise Awareness Of The Program. GAO-24-106654. January 25, 2024.

Surface Transportation Threats: Better Communication With Stakeholders Needed About The Security Clearance Process. GAO-24-106382. February 07, 2024.

Department Of Homeland Security: Additional Actions Needed To Improve Oversight Of Joint Task Forces. GAO-24-106855. February 07, 2024.

Puerto Rico Disasters: Progress Made, But The Recovery Continues To Face Challenges. GAO-24-105557. February 13, 2024.

DHS Employee Misconduct: Actions Needed To Better Assess Differences In Supervisor And Non-Supervisor Discipline. GAO-24-105820. February 14, 2024.

IRS Reform: Following Leading Practices And Improving Cost Estimation Policies Could Benefit Agency Efforts. GAO-24-106091. February 14, 2024.

Maternal Health: HHS Should Improve Assessment Of Efforts To Address Worsening Outcomes. GAO-24-106271. February 21, 2024.

Aviation Security: Transportation Security Administration Could Further Improve Officer Engagement. GAO-24-106052. February 27, 2024.

Trusted Traveler Programs: DHS Has Enrollment Processes, But CBP Should Provide Additional Information On Reconsiderations. GAO-24-106314. February 28, 2024.

Federal Real Property: More Consistent Monitoring Of Asbestos Could Improve Oversight. GAO-24-106324. March 04, 2024.

Cybersecurity: Improvements Needed In Addressing Risks To Operational Technology. GAO-24-106576. March 07, 2024.

Wildfire Disasters: Opportunities To Improve Federal Response, Recovery, And Mitigation Efforts. GAO-24-107382.

Commercial Aviation: Key Lessons From COVID-19 Preparedness And Emergency Financial Assistance To The Industry. GAO-24-106754. March 18, 2024.

Nuclear Terrorism Prevention: DHS Has Strengthened The Securing The Cities Program, But Actions Are Needed to Address Key Remaining Challenges. GAO-24-106922. March 20, 2024.

Border Security: Border Patrol's Missing Migrant Program. GAO-24-107051. March 20, 2024.

Bureau Of Indian Education: Improved Oversight Of Schools' COVID-19 Spending Is Needed. GAO-24-105451. March 20, 2024.

Ukraine: Status Of Foreign Assistance. GAO-24-106884. March 28, 2024.

2020 Census: The Bureau Adapted Approaches For Addressing Unexpected Results And Developing Annual Population Estimates. GAO-24-106594. April 01, 2024.

2023 Lobbying Disclosure: Observations On Compliance With Requirements. GAO-24-106799.

COVID-19 Relief: State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending As Of September 30, 2023 GAO-24-107472. April 10, 2024.

International Life Science: NSC Should Improve The Assessment And Documentation Of National Security Review Processes. GAO-24-105525C. April 18, 2024.

Cybersecurity: Implementation Of Executive Order Requirements Is Essential To Address Key Actions. GAO-24-106343. April 18, 2024.

Single Audits: Improving Federal Audit Clearinghouse Information And Usability Could Strengthen Federal Award Oversight. GAO-24-106173. April 22, 2024.

Biometric Identification Technologies: Considerations To Address Information Gaps And Other Stakeholder Concerns. GAO-24-106293. April 22, 2024.

IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost And Schedule Estimates. GAO-24-106293. April 22, 2024.

Ukraine: Lessons From Other Conflicts Can Improve The Results Of U.S. Recovery Assistance. GAO-24-107180. April 29, 2024.

Higher Education: Education Could Improve Information On Accommodations For Students With Disabilities. GAO-24-105614. April 30, 2024.

Ukraine: Status And Challenges Of DOD Weapon Replacement Efforts. GAO-24-106649. April 30, 2024.

Public Health Preparedness: HHS Should Address Strategic National Stockpile Coordination Challenges. GAO-24-106260. May 02, 2024.

Southwest Border: CBP Could Take Additional Steps To Strengthen Its Response To Incidents Involving Its Personnel. GAO-24-106148. May 13, 2024.

2024 Annual Report Additional Opportunities To Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, And Duplication And Achieve Billions Of Dollars In Financial Benefits. GAO-24-106915. May 15, 2024.

Government Efficiency And Effectiveness: Opportunities To Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, And Duplication And Achieve Billions Of Dollars In Financial Benefits. GAO-24-107554. May 15, 2024.

Emergency Rental Assistance: Treasury Should Improve Data Completeness And Public Reporting. GAO-24-107084. May 23, 2024.

Ukraine: Status And Use Of Supplemental U.S. Funding, As Of First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2024. GAO-24-107232. May 30, 2024.

DOD Financial Management: Additional Steps Needed To Guide Future Systems Transitions. GAO-24-106313. June 03, 2024.

Cybersecurity: Efforts Initiated To Harmonize Regulations, But Significant Work Remains. GAO-24-107602. June 05, 2024.

DHS Hiring: Additional Actions Needed To Enhance Vetting Processes Across The Department. GAO-24-106153. June 11, 2024.

State Small Business Credit Initiative: Treasury Made Progress. GAO-24-106671. June 11, 2024.

Recommendations For Congress: Action Can Produce Billions Of Dollars In Financial And Other Benefits. GAO-24-107261. June 12, 2024.

Congressional Award Foundation: Review Of The FY 2023 Financial Statement Audit. GAO-24-107420. June 13, 2024.

Federal Real Property: Efforts To Incorporate Climate Vulnerabilities And Environmental Justice Into Asset Management. GAO-24-106420. June 26, 2024.

Open GAO Recommendations: Financial Benefits Could Be Between \$106 Billion And \$208 Billion. GAO-24-107146. July 11, 2024.

Medicaid: Federal Oversight Of State Eligibility Redeterminations Should Reflect Lessons Learned After COVID-19. GAO-24-106883. July 18, 2024.

Ukraine Assistance: Actions Needed To Properly Value Defense Articles Provided Under Presidential Drawdown Authority. GAO-24-106934. July 22, 2024.

Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS Has Efforts Underway To Implement Federal Incident Reporting Requirements. GAO-24-106917. July 30, 2024.

Ukraine: DOD Could Strengthen International Military Training Coordination By Improving Data Quality. GAO-24-106964SU. July 30, 2024.

Human Trafficking: Agencies Need To Adopt A Systematic Approach To Manage Risks In Contracts. GAO-24-106973. July 30, 2024.

Hospitals: Expanded Use Of Supplemental Nurses During The COVID-19 Pandemic. GAO-24-106447. August 01, 2024.

COVID-19: Lessons Can Help Agencies Better Prepare For Future Emergencies. GAO-24-107175. August 01, 2024.

Ukraine: U.S. Agencies Should Improve Tracking Of Authorized U.S.-Origin Defense Article Transfers Requested By Foreign Donors. GAO-24-106745. August 20, 2024.

Evidence-Based Policymaking: Agencies Need Additional Guidance To Assess Their Capacity. GAO-24-106982. August 20, 2024.

Federal Real Property: Actions Needed To Better Assess Office Sharing Pilot's Broader Applicability. GAO-24-106919. September 11, 2024.

Child Care Accessibility: Agencies Can Further Coordinate To Better Serve Families With Disabilities. GAO-24-106843. September 12, 2024.

Supplemental Material For GAO-24-106843: Strengthening Federal Government Coordination To Help Families With Disabilities Access Child Care. GAO-24-107735. September 12, 2024.

Federal Contracting: Timely Actions Needed To Address Risks Posed By Consultants Working For China. GAO-24-106932. September 19, 2024.

Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS In Drinking Water. GAO-24-106523. September 24, 2024.

Commercial Real Estate: Trends, Risks, And Federal Monitoring Efforts. GAO-24-107282. September 24, 2024.

Federal Programs: OMB Needs A Structure To Govern And A Plan To Develop A Comprehensive Inventory. GAO-24-107656. September 25, 2024.

COVID-19 Relief: States' And Localities' Fiscal Recovery Funds Spending As Of March 31, 2024. GAO-24-107301. September 26, 2024.

Ukraine: DOD Could Strengthen International Military Training Coordination By Improving Data Quality. GAO-24-107776. September 26, 2024.

Ukraine Funding: DOD Needs To Improve Its Reporting, Guidance, And Evaluation Efforts. GAO-24-106763SU. September 30, 2024.

DOD Financial Management: Action Needed To Enhance Workforce Planning. GAO-25-105286. October 10, 2024.

Status Update On 2022 National Biodefense Strategy. October 18, 2024.

Single Audits: Interior And Treasury Need To Improve Their Oversight Of COVID-19 Relief Funds Provided To Tribal Entities. GAO-25-106741. November 07, 2024.

Ukraine: DOD Can Take Additional Steps To Improve Its Security Assistance Training. GAO-25-106773SU. November 07, 2024.

Whistleblower Protection: DOJ And FBI Need To Improve Employees' Awareness Of Rights. GAO-25-106547. November 12, 2024.

Whistleblower Protection: Department Of Justice Office Of The Inspector General Needs To Improve Awareness Of FBI Employee Rights. GAO-25-107794. November 12, 2024.

Cloud Computing: Selected Agencies Need To Implement Updated Guidance For Managing Restrictive Licenses. GAO-25-107114. November 13, 2024.

COVID-19 Relief: SBA And DOL Should Improve Processes To Identify And Recover Overpayments. GAO-25-106199. November 13, 2024.

Indian Affairs: Additional Actions Needed To Address Long-Standing Challenges With Workforce Capacity. GAO-25-106825. November 13, 2024.

U.S. Immigration And Customs Enforcement: Update On Planning For Unit Of Native American Law Enforcement Personnel. GAO-25-107644. November 18, 2024.

Information Technology: Government-Wide Guidance On Handling Data Could Improve Civil Rights And Civil Liberties Protections. GAO-25-106057. November 19, 2024.

2020 Census: Coverage Errors And Challenges Inform 2030 Plans. GAO-25-107160. November 21, 2024.

Future Of Cybersecurity: Leadership Needed To Fully Define Quantum Threat Mitigation Strategy. GAO-25-107703. November 21, 2024.

Federal Telework: Selected Agencies Need To Evaluate The Potential Effects On Agency Performance. GAO-25-106316. November 22, 2024.

Export Controls: Commerce Implemented Advanced Semiconductor Rules And Took Steps To Address Compliance Challenges. GAO-25-107386. December 02, 2024.

Farm Loans: Status Of USDA Loan Debt Assistance For Distressed Borrowers. GAO-25-107008. December 03, 2024.

Internet Of Things: Federal Actions Needed To Address Legislative Requirements. GAO-25-107179. December 04, 2024.

Private Health Insurance: Premium Subsidy During COVID-19 Was Implemented Under Tight Timeline. GAO-25-107055. December 12, 2024.

Federal Vehicle Fleet: Efforts Are Underway To Facilitate The Transition To Zero Emission Vehicles. GAO-25-106972. December 17, 2024.

Wildfires: Additional Actions Needed To Address FEMA Assistance Challenges. GAO-25-106862. December 18, 2024.

COVID-19: Information On HHS's Medical Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program. GAO-25-107368. December 18, 2024.

Direct File: IRS Successfully Piloted Online Tax Filing But Opportunities Exist To Expand Access. GAO-25-106933. December 19, 2024.

Illicit Finance: Treasury Should Monitor Partnerships And Trusts For Future Risks. GAO-25-106955. December 19, 2024.

Federal Reserve Lending Programs: Nearly Half Of Main Street Program Loans Are Fully Repaid, But Losses Have Increased. GAO-25-107246. December 19, 2024.

Federal Data Centers: OMB Is Working To Issue Operational Requirements (Briefing Document). December 19, 2024.

Immigration Courts: Actions Needed To Track And Report Non-citizens' Hearing Appearances. GAO-25-106867. December 19, 2024.

## VI. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

During the 118th Congress, 958 official communications were referred to the Committee. Of these, 946 were Executive Communications, and 12 were Petitions or Memorials. Of the official communications, 383 dealt with the District of Columbia.

## VII. LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

During the 118th Congress, the Committee reported significant legislation that was approved by Congress and signed into law by the President.

The following are brief legislative histories of measures referred to the Committee and, in some cases, drafted by the Committee, which became public law. In addition to the measures listed below, the Committee received during the 118th Congress numerous legislative proposals that were 1) favorably reported from the Committee and passed by the Senate, but did not become law, 2) not considered or reported, or 3) reported but not passed by the Senate.

Additional information on these measures appears in the Committee's Legislative Calendar for the 118th Congress.

#### A. MEASURES ENACTED INTO LAW

The following measures considered by the Committee were enacted into Public Law. The descriptions following the signing date of each measure note selected provisions of the text, and are not intended to serve as section-by-section summaries.

H.J. Res. 26—Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022. (Public Law 118–1). March 20, 2023.

This joint resolution nullifies the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, enacted by the council of the District of Columbia (DC). The act makes a variety of changes to DC criminal laws, including by providing statutory definitions for various elements of criminal offenses, modifying sentencing guidelines and penalties, and expanding the right to a jury trial for certain misdemeanor crimes.

S. 111—Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act of 2023. (Public Law 118–28). July 25, 2023.

This act requires the notice of a proposed rule by a federal agency to include the internet address of a summary of the rule. The summary must be 100 words or fewer, written in plain language, and posted on regulations.gov.

S. 206—Eradicating Narcotic Drugs and Formulating Effective New Tools to Address National Yearly Losses of life Act. (Public Law 118–43). March 18, 2024.

This bill requires U.S. Customs and Border Protection to review and update, as necessary, manuals and policies related to inspections at ports of entry to ensure the uniformity of inspection practices to effectively detect illegal activity along the border, such as the smuggling of drugs and humans.

S. 1858—Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act. (Public Law 118–44). March 18, 2024.

This bill modifies the deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance. Specifically, the bill matches the deadline for an individual seeking unemployment assistance for a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to the application deadline for individuals and households seeking other assistance under that act. The bill authorizes an extension of that deadline if the individual (1) has good cause for the late submission, and (2) submits the application during the period when disaster assistance is being provided.

S. 1973—All-American Flag Act. (Public Law 118–74). July 30, 2024.

This bill prohibits agencies from using funds to procure a U.S. flag unless such flag has been manufactured in the United States from materials that have been U.S. grown, produced, or manufactured. The bill specifies exceptions to this prohibition, including an exception if flags of satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity cannot be procured as needed at market prices.

S. 670—IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act. (Public Law 118–96). October 01, 2024.

This bill establishes a program within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) to provide outreach and training to HSI employees who have been ex-



posed to various forms of trauma in working with victims of human trafficking. The bill also provides statutory authority for the HSI Victim Assistance Program. The bill ceases to have effect beginning October 1, 2030.

S. 679—GAO Database Modernization Act of 2023. (Public Law 118–25). October 01, 2024.

This act bill requires federal agencies to report to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) certain information about agency rules that are made ineffective due to an agency action or other reason. The report must include (1) the title of the rule; (2) the citation for the rule in the Federal Register; (3) the date on which the rule was submitted to the GAO; and (4) a description of the provisions of the rule that are being revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective. The act is effective for six years after the date of enactment.

S. 794—CTPAT Pilot Program of 2023. (Public Law 118–98). October 01, 2024.

This act requires the Department of Homeland Security to carry out a pilot program that assesses whether allowing certain entities to participate in the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) would enhance port security, combat terrorism, prevent supply chain security breaches, or otherwise meet the goals of CTPAT. Such entities are (1) non-asset-based third-party logistics providers that arrange international freight transportation and are licensed by the Department of Transportation; or (2) asset-based third-party logistics providers that facilitate cross-border activity, are licensed or bonded by specified federal agencies, and execute logistics services using their own warehousing assets and resources. The act requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the effectiveness of CTPAT.

S. 2685—Reuse Excess Property Act. (Public Law 118–99). October 01, 2024.

This act requires the General Services Administration (GSA) to make publicly available on the internet the data contained in specified federal agency reports on excess personal property. (Personal property is any property except real property and includes vehicles, furniture, and office equipment.) The act also requires federal agencies to make public their internal guidance on using excess personal property to meet agency needs. Such guidance must include certain topics, such as (1) a requirement to consider excess personal property before buying new, and (2) how to evaluate the suitability of excess personal property for use. Federal agencies must also provide this information to the GSA. These provisions are repealed five years after the date of enactment.

S. 4698—DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–103). October 01, 2024.

This act extends through FY2026 the authority of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish and operate joint task forces (JTFs), which coordinate activities across DHS's component organizations and with other government and international partners. The act requires DHS to annually provide Congress with (1) a staffing plan for each JTF; and (2) a briefing on various aspects of JTF–East (which operates in the southern maritime environment, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, to

combat transnational criminal organizations and prepare for maritime mass migration events).

S. 1549—Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act. (Public Law 118–104). October 02, 2024.

This act exempts the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) from the Privacy Act of 1974 to expedite the sharing of data and information between CBO and federal agencies. Under current law, the Privacy Act of 1974 generally prohibits federal agencies from disclosing certain records pertaining to an individual without the individual's prior written consent. This act allows federal agencies to disclose such records to CBO (or to an authorized representative of CBO) without obtaining the prior written consent of the individual. Several agencies, including the Government Accountability Office and the National Archives and Records Administration, are currently exempt from these requirements, and this act adds CBO to the list of exemptions.

H.R. 6249—Think Differently About Emergencies Act. (Public Law 118–123). November 25, 2024.

This act requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to Congress regarding assistance and resources provided by FEMA to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families of such individuals who are impacted by major disasters. Specifically, FEMA must report within 120 days of this act's enactment, describing the assistance and resources that FEMA provides to such individuals and families through states, localities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. Further, FEMA and GAO must each (1) review such assistance and resources, (2) identify potential legal impediments to providing such assistance and resources, and (3) provide recommendations to Congress.

S. 1510—GAO Inspector General Parity Act. (Public Law 118–131). November 25, 2024.

This act makes changes to provisions relating to the Inspector General (IG) of the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Specifically, if the IG is removed from office or transferred to another position or location within GAO, GAO must communicate in writing the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons, for any such removal or transfer to both chambers of Congress not later than 30 days before the removal or transfer. Only the Comptroller General may place the IG on non-duty status, subject to specified requirements. GAO must include the annual budget request of the IG in the GAO budget without change. The IG shall obtain legal advice from a counsel reporting directly to the IG or another IG.

H.R. 5302—Michael O. Maceda Memorial Act. (Public Law 118–139). December 11, 2024.

This bill designates the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit.

H.R. 5799—James R. Dominguez Memorial Act of 2023. (Public Law 118–141). December 11, 2024.

This act designates the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint on U.S. Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint.

S. 310—Disaster Contract Improvement Act. (Public Law 118–153). December 17, 2024.

This act directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish an advisory working group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal. The act requires (1) FEMA to conduct outreach to states, tribal governments, and local governments with respect to any guidance or support materials developed; and (2) the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study that, among other things, examines the use and adoption rate of advance contracts for debris removal by states, tribal governments, and local governments.

S. 3613—Improving Federal Building Security Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–160). December 17, 2024.

This act requires Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service (FPS) regarding facility security. A Facility Security Committee is a committee that (1) consists of representatives of all federal tenants in a specific nonmilitary facility, the security organization for the facility, and the owning or leasing federal tenant; and (2) is responsible for addressing facility-specific security issues and approving the implementation of security measures and practices in the facility. Not later than 90 days after the FPS issues a security recommendation to a Facility Security Committee, that committee must respond to the Department of Homeland Security (1) indicating if the committee intends to adopt or reject the recommendation; (2) describing the financial implications of adopting or rejecting the recommendation, including if the benefits outweigh the costs; and (3) providing DHS with a justification, if it intends to reject the recommendation, for accepting the risk posed by that rejection. DHS must (1) develop a procedure to monitor the recommendations and responses and take reasonable action to ensure Facility Security Committee response; and (2) report to Congress 270 days after this act's enactment and annually thereafter regarding such recommendations, responses, justifications for rejected recommendations, and risk mitigation efforts. The provisions of this act only apply to General Services Administration (GSA) facilities under FPS protection and non-GSA facilities that pay fees to the FPS for protection. This act ceases to be effective five years after enactment.

H.R. 3254—First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act. (Public Law 118–165). December 23, 2024.

This act directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications for certain anti-terrorism grants to urban areas and state, local, and tribal governments. Specifically, the uniform review must be done for grant applications requesting to purchase first responder equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards.

H.R. 4467—DHS Border Services Contracts Review Act. (Public Law 118–171). December 23, 2024.

This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assess contractor personnel performing services along the U.S. land border with Mexico and plan to implement recommendations developed from the assessment. Specifically, DHS must report to Con-

gress regarding active contracts with a total value of \$50 million or more relating to the procurement of services along the border. The report must include, among other things the criteria used by DHS to determine whether contractor personnel were necessary to assist in carrying out its mission along the border; an analysis of the purpose, quantity, and location of contractor personnel addressing DHS mission needs along the border and enhancing the capability of DHS personnel to perform primary mission responsibilities; an assessment of the benefits of contractor personnel performing the services; a strategy to improve the procurement and delivery of the services through contracts over a five-year period; and recommendations based on the report's findings. DHS must (1) submit with the report a plan to implement the recommendations and strategy contained in such report to enhance coordination, minimize overlap, and increase cost effectiveness; and (2) brief Congress with respect to the status of implementation.

H.R. 5301—Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–172). December 23, 2024.

This act requires federal agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements and related information in their annual budget justifications. Specifically, the agencies must include a list of each recurring plan or report submitted by the agency and specified identifying information for the plans or reports. The agencies must also identify any recurring plans or reports that are outdated or duplicative. With respect to each recurring plan or report that is outdated or duplicative, the agency must also include a recommendation on whether to end, modify, consolidate, or reduce the frequency of the report or plan; a citation to each provision of law or directive in a congressional report that requires or requests the submission of the report or plan; a list of the relevant congressional committees; and a justification that explains why the agency made the recommendation and the agency's understanding of the purpose of the plan or report. If a recurring plan or report is required to be submitted by at least two federal agencies, the act requires the Office of Management and Budget to (1) determine whether the requirement to submit the recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative, and (2) make recommendations to Congress accordingly.

H.R. 7524—GSA Technology Accountability Act. (Public Law 118–182). December 23, 2024.

This bill requires the General Services Administration to report to Congress on projects funded by the Federal Citizen Services Fund and the Acquisition Services Fund. The reports must include various elements, such as a list of each project funded along with an explanation of the project and its cost.

H.R. 8663—DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–186). December 23, 2024.

This act provides statutory authority for the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate to take certain actions to support the detection of drugs such as fentanyl and xylazine. Specifically, the act provides statutory authority for the directorate's research and development efforts to improve drug detection equipment and reference libraries for law enforcement agencies, including with respect to portable equipment, equipment that can analyze complex samples, and technology that uses artificial intelligence or other techniques to detect new substances. The

act additionally requires the directorate to follow certain standards and rely on certain information from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Drug Enforcement Administration, respectively, regarding these efforts.

S. 59—Chance to Compete Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–188). December 23, 2024.

This bill requires federal agencies to use technical assessments to fill most positions in the competitive service. Under the bill, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) must develop and implement a plan for transitioning to using technical assessments for hiring into competitive service positions unless the hiring agency certifies that it is impracticable. Technical assessments must be developed by subject matter experts within each hiring agency and allow for candidates to demonstrate job-related skills and knowledge; however, they may not include an occupational questionnaire. An agency may determine that the use of a technical assessment to assess applicants for a position in the competitive service is not practicable and, instead, use an occupational questionnaire. (An occupational questionnaire is an evaluation system in which applicants self-rate their training and experience and that is commonly delivered through an automated system such as USAJobs.) OPM must also study and report to Congress regarding the feasibility of examining agencies sharing technical assessments and the development of an online platform to be used by the agencies. The OPM plan must be provided to Congress within 18 months after the bill's enactment and implemented within three years following the bill's enactment. During the three-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this bill, technical assessments must be preferred by hiring agencies.

S. 709—Federal Agency Performance Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–190). December 23, 2024.

This bill addresses federal agency performance and accountability. Specifically, the bill revises requirements regarding strategic reviews of federal agencies' performance goals and requires a Deputy Performance Improvement Officer to support the Performance Improvement Officer. With respect to strategic reviews, not less frequently than annually and consistent with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, each agency must take specified actions, including for each goal or objective established in the agency's strategic plan, review the progress achieved toward the goal and the likelihood that the agency will achieve the goal; identify any risks or impediments that would decrease the likelihood that the agency will achieve the goal; and for each goal at greatest risk of not being achieved, identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement. Additionally, the bill requires that federal government priority goals (1) be updated and revised not less frequently than during the first year of each presidential term, (2) include plans for the successful achievement of each goal within each single presidential term, and (3) explicitly cite to any specific contents of the budget that support the achievement of each goal. The Government Accountability Office must report to Congress on the effectiveness of this bill.

S. 932—No CORRUPTION Act. (Public Law 118–192). December 23, 2024.

This act makes a Member of Congress who has been convicted of a crime related to public corruption ineligible to receive retirement payments pursuant to the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System based on service as a Member. Under current law, a Member must forgo receipt of these payments only after a final conviction (i.e., after the exhaustion of all appeals under the judicial process).

S. 2414—Working Dog Health and Welfare Act of 2023. (Public Law 118–195). December 23, 2024.

This bill requires federal agencies with working dog programs, and contractors managing such programs, to implement the recommendations of a Government Accountability Office report titled *Working Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address Health and Welfare* and published in October 2022. Further, the Department of State must take steps to ensure that donations of working dogs provided to foreign partners by the State Department are executed and monitored according to those recommendations.

S. 4716—Financial Management Risk Reduction Act. (Public Law 118–207). December 23, 2024.

This bill increases federal oversight of single audits submitted by certain recipients of federal awards (i.e., federal financial assistance, including grants, and federal cost reimbursement contracts). A single audit is conducted by an independent auditor and includes the financial statements and federal awards of a non-federal entity. Specifically, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to designate one or more federal agencies to conduct a government-wide analysis of single audit quality. Such government-wide analysis must be completed within three years of the bill's enactment and every six years thereafter. OMB must develop a strategy, and the General Services Administration (GSA) must develop analytic tools, to identify risks to federal award funds using Federal Audit Clearinghouse data. Within four years of the bill's enactment, the Government Accountability Office must evaluate several related topics, including (1) the effectiveness of such strategy and analytic tools, and (2) reporting burdens for auditors and audited entities.

H.R. 5887—Government Service Delivery Improvement Act. (Public Law 118–231). December 4, 2025.

This bill increases federal oversight of single audits submitted by certain recipients of federal awards (i.e., federal financial assistance, including grants, and federal cost reimbursement contracts). A single audit is conducted by an independent auditor and includes the financial statements and federal awards of a non-federal entity. Specifically, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to designate one or more federal agencies to conduct a government-wide analysis of single audit quality. Such government-wide analysis must be completed within three years of the bill's enactment and every six years thereafter. OMB must develop a strategy, and the General Services Administration (GSA) must develop analytic tools, to identify risks to federal award funds using Federal Audit Clearinghouse data. Within four years of the bill's enactment, the Government Accountability Office must evaluate several related topics, including (1) the effectiveness of such strategy and analytic tools, and (2) reporting burdens for auditors and audited entities.

H.R. 9592—Federal Register Modernization Act of 2024. (Public Law 118–267). January 4, 2025.

This bill revises provisions regarding the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations, including to replace requirements that the documents be printed with requirements that the documents be published. The bill also eliminates the requirement for federal agencies to provide duplicate originals or certified copies of agency documents submitted for publication in the Federal Register; specifies that a designee of the President may fulfill certain functions, such as approving regulations related to the publication of the Federal Register prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register; and provides that in a continuity of operations event in which the Government Publishing Office (GPO) does not fulfill its publication requirements, the Office of the Federal Register may establish an alternative method to publish the Federal Register until such time that GPO resumes publication.

#### B. POSTAL NAMING BILLS

H.R. 292—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the “William L. Reynolds Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–52). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 996—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Blvd., in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the “Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office”. (Public Law 118–53). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 2379—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the “Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office”. (Public Law 118–54). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 2754—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the “Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–66). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 3865—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 8th Street in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, as the “Lieutenant William D. Lebo Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–56). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 3944—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Church Street in Mount Vernon, Georgia, as the “Second Lieutenant Patrick Palmer Calhoun Post Office”. (Public Law 118–57). May 07, 2024.

H.R. 3947—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 859 North State Road 21 in Melrose, Florida, as the “Pamela Jane Rock Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–58). May 07, 2024.

S. 3639—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Robert Hayden Post Office”. (Public Law 118–100). October 01, 2024.

S. 3640—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office”. (Public Law 118–101). October 01, 2024.

S. 3851—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michi-

gan, as the “Sojourner Truth Post Office”. (Public Law 118–102). October 01, 2024.

H.R. 599—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the “Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office”. (Public Law 118–108). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 1060—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the “Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–110). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 1098—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office”. (Public Law 118–111). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 3608—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the “Major Megan McClung Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–112). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 3728—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the “Caroline Chang Post Office”. (Public Law 118–113). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 5476—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the “Susan C. Barnhart Post Office”. (Public Law 118–116). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 5640—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–118). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 5712—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the “Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–119). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 5985—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the “Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–121). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 6073—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–122). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 6651—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the “Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–125). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 7192—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the “Dr. William I. ‘Bill’ Kott Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–126). November 25, 2024.

H.R. 7199—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”. (Public Law 118–127). November 25, 2024.



H.R. 7423—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–129). November 25, 2024.

S. 2143—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South 2nd Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the “Staff Sergeant Robb Lura Roling Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–132). November 25, 2024.

S. 2274—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, as the “Dessie A. Bebout Post Office”. (Public Law 118–133). November 25, 2024.

S. 3627—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the “First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–135). November 25, 2024.

S. 3419—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the “John Charles Traub Post Office”. (Public Law 118–136). November 25, 2024.

S. 3946—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the “Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office”. (Public Law 118–201). December 23, 2024.

S. 4077—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the “Dianne Feinstein Post Office”. (Public Law 118–204). December 23, 2024.

H.R. 1555—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the “Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–211). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 1823—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–212). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 3354—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the “Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–213). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 5867—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–216). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6116—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, as the “Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–217). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6162—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the “LaBruce ‘Bruce’ Tidwell Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–218). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6188—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South

Carolina, as the “Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–219). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6244—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the “1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–220). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6633—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–221). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6750—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the “Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–222). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6810—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the “U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–223). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 6983—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Rocquemore Post Office”. (Public Law 118–224). January 2, 2025.

H.R. 7158—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, as the “Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–236). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7180—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office”. (Public Law 118–237). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7385—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the “John Mercer Langston Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–239). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7417—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–240). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7507—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the “William E. and Elsie L. Barrett Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–241). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7508—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the “Gladys P. Todd Post Office”. (Public Law 118–242). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7606—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office”. (Public Law 118–243). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7607—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–244). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 7893—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the “Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–245). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8057—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office”. (Public Law 118–248). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8641—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the “Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–249). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8717—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, as the “STG Bill Hooser Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–252). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8841—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the “Floyd B. Olson Post Office”. (Public Law 118–253). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8868—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–254). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8909—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82–6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the “Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–255). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8919—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”. (Public Law 118–256). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 8976—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the “Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office”. (Public Law 118–257). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9285—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the “Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office”. (Public Law 118–260). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9322—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–261). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9421—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the “Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office”. (Public Law 118–262). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9544—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–264). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9549—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as

the “Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–265). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9580—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office”. (Public Law 118–266). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9600—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the “Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office”. (Public Law 118–268). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 9775—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–269). January 4, 2025.

H.R. 10065—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building”. (Public Law 118–269). January 4, 2024.

## VIII. ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES

### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

CHAIRMAN: RICHARD BLUMENTHAL (D-CT)

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: RON JOHNSON (R-WI)

The following is the Activity Report of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for the 118th Congress.

#### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

##### A. SUBCOMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations was originally authorized by Senate Resolution 189 on January 28, 1948. At its creation in 1948, the Subcommittee was part of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments. The Subcommittee's records and broad investigative jurisdiction over government operations and national security issues, antedate its creation, as it was given custody of the jurisdiction of the former Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program (the so-called "War Investigating Committee" or "Truman Committee"), chaired by Senator Harry S. Truman during the Second World War and charged with exposing waste, fraud, and abuse in the war effort and war profiteering. Today, the Subcommittee is part of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.<sup>1</sup>

The Subcommittee has had thirteen Chairs: Senators Homer Ferguson of Michigan (1948); Clyde R. Hoey of North Carolina (1949–1952); Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin (1953–1954); John L. McClellan of Arkansas (1955–1972); Henry M. Jackson of Washington (1973–1978); Sam Nunn of Georgia (1979–1980 and 1987–1994); William V. Roth of Delaware (1981–1986 and 1995–1996); Susan M. Collins of Maine (1997–2001); Norman B. Coleman of Minnesota (2003–2007); Carl M. Levin of Michigan (2001–2002 and 2007–2014); Robert J. Portman of Ohio (2015–2021); Jon Ossoff of Georgia (2021–2023); and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut (2023–2025).

Until 1957, the Subcommittee's jurisdiction focused principally on waste, inefficiency, impropriety, and illegality in government operations. Its jurisdiction then expanded over time, today encompassing investigations within the broad ambit of its parent committee's responsibility for matters relating to the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the government, including matters related to: (a) waste, fraud, abuse, malfeasance, and unethical practices in government contracting and operations; (b) organized criminal activities affecting interstate or international commerce; (c) criminal activity affecting the national health, welfare, or safety, including investment fraud, commodity and securities fraud, computer fraud, and offshore abuses; (d) criminality or improper practices in labor-management relations; (e) the effectiveness of present

<sup>1</sup>In 1952, the parent committee's name was changed to the Committee on Government Operations. It was changed again in early 1977, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs, and again in 2005, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, its present title.

national security methods, staffing and procedures, and U.S. relationships with international organizations concerned with national security; (f) energy shortages, energy pricing, management of government-owned or controlled energy supplies, and relationships with oil producing and consuming countries; and (g) the operations and management of Federal regulatory policies and programs. While retaining the status of a subcommittee of a standing committee, the Subcommittee has long exercised its authority on an independent basis, selecting its own staff, issuing its own subpoenas, and determining its own investigatory agenda.

The Subcommittee acquired its sweeping jurisdiction in several successive stages. In 1957—based on information developed by the Subcommittee—the Senate passed a Resolution establishing a Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field. Chaired by Senator McClellan, who also chaired the Subcommittee at that time, the Select Committee was composed of eight Senators—four of whom were drawn from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and four from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. The Select Committee operated for three years, sharing office space, personnel, and other facilities with the Permanent Subcommittee. Upon its expiration in early 1960, the Select Committee's jurisdiction and files were transferred to the Permanent Subcommittee, greatly enlarging the latter body's investigative authority in the labor-management area.

The Subcommittee's jurisdiction expanded further during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1961, for example, it received authority to make inquiries into matters pertaining to organized crime and, in 1963, held the famous Valachi hearings examining the inner workings of the Italian Mafia. In 1967, following a summer of riots and other civil disturbances, the Senate approved a Resolution directing the Subcommittee to investigate the causes of this disorder and to recommend corrective action. In January 1973, the Subcommittee acquired its national security mandate when it merged with the National Security Subcommittee. With this merger, the Subcommittee's jurisdiction was broadened to include inquiries concerning the adequacy of national security staffing and procedures, relations with international organizations, technology transfer issues, and related matters. In 1974, in reaction to the gasoline shortages precipitated by the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, the Subcommittee acquired jurisdiction to investigate the control and management of energy resources and supplies as well as energy pricing issues.

In 1997, the full Committee on Governmental Affairs was charged by the Senate to conduct a special examination into illegal or improper activities in connection with Federal election campaigns during the 1996 election cycle. The Permanent Subcommittee provided substantial resources and assistance to this investigation, contributing to a greater public understanding of what happened, to subsequent criminal and civil legal actions taken against wrongdoers, and to enactment of campaign finance reforms in 2001.

In 1998, the Subcommittee marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Truman Committee's conversion into a permanent subcommittee of

the U.S. Senate.<sup>2</sup> Since then, the Subcommittee has developed particular expertise in complex financial matters, examining the collapse of Enron Corporation in 2001, the key causes of the 2008 financial crisis, structured finance abuses, financial fraud, unfair credit practices, money laundering, commodity speculation, and a wide range of offshore and tax haven abuses. It has also focused on issues involving health care fraud, foreign corruption, and waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs. In the more than half-century of its existence, the Subcommittee's many successful investigations have made clear to the Senate the importance of retaining a standing investigatory body devoted to keeping government not only efficient and effective but also honest and accountable.

## B. SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

Armed with its broad jurisdictional mandate, the Subcommittee has conducted investigations into a wide variety of topics of public concern, ranging from waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Executive Branch, to campaign finance, labor relations, public order, financial misconduct, commodities speculation, predatory lending, tax evasion, and improper foreign influence in the United States. Over the years, the Subcommittee has also conducted investigations into criminal wrongdoing, including money laundering, the narcotics trade, child pornography, labor racketeering, human trafficking, the opioid crisis, and organized crime activities. In addition, the Subcommittee has investigated a wide range of allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs and consumer protection issues, addressing problems ranging from unfair credit card practices and health care fraud to sexual assault in the U.S. Coast Guard. The Subcommittee has a storied history of conducting many of these investigations in a bipartisan fashion.

### *(1) Historical Highlights*

The Subcommittee's investigatory record as a permanent Senate body began under the chairmanship of Republican Senator Homer Ferguson and his Chief Counsel (and future Attorney General and Secretary of State) William P. Rogers, as the Subcommittee inherited the Truman Committee's role in investigating fraud and waste in U.S. Government operations. This investigative work became particularly colorful under the chairmanship of Senator Clyde Hoey, a North Carolina Democrat who took the chair from Senator Ferguson after the 1948 elections. Under Senator Hoey's leadership, the Subcommittee won national attention for its investigation of the so-called "five percenters," notorious Washington lobbyists who charged their clients five percent of the profits from any federal contracts they obtained on the client's behalf. Given the Sub-

---

<sup>2</sup>This anniversary also marked the first date upon which internal Subcommittee records generally began to become available to the public. Unlike most standing committees of the Senate whose previously unpublished records open after a period of twenty years has elapsed, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, as an investigatory body, may close its records for fifty years to protect personal privacy and the integrity of the investigatory process. With this 50th anniversary, the Subcommittee's earliest records, housed in the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration, began to open seriatim. The records of the predecessor committee—the Truman Committee—were opened by Senator Nunn in 1980.

committee's jurisdictional inheritance from the Truman Committee, it is perhaps ironic that the "five percenters" investigation raised allegations of bribery and influence-peddling that reached right into the White House and implicated members of President Truman's staff. In any event, the fledgling Subcommittee was off to a rapid start.

What began as colorful soon became contentious. When Republicans returned to the majority in the Senate in 1953, Wisconsin's junior senator, Joseph R. McCarthy, became the Subcommittee's chairman. Two years earlier, as Ranking Minority Member, Senator McCarthy had arranged for another Republican senator, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, to be removed from the Subcommittee. Senator Smith's offense, in Senator McCarthy's eyes, was her issuance of a "Declaration of Conscience" repudiating those who made unfounded charges and used character assassination against their political opponents. Although Senator Smith had carefully declined to name any specific offender, her remarks were universally recognized as criticism of Senator McCarthy's accusations that Communists had infiltrated the State Department and other government agencies. Senator McCarthy retaliated by engineering Senator Smith's removal, replacing her with the newly-elected senator from California, Richard Nixon.

Upon becoming Subcommittee Chairman, Senator McCarthy staged a series of highly publicized anti-Communist investigations, culminating in an inquiry into Communism within the U.S. Army, which became known as the Army-McCarthy hearings. During the latter portion of those hearings, in which the parent Committee examined the Wisconsin Senator's attacks on the Army, Senator McCarthy recused himself, leaving South Dakota Senator Karl Mundt to serve as Acting Chairman of the Subcommittee. Gavel-to-gavel television coverage of the hearings helped turn the tide against Senator McCarthy by raising public concern about his treatment of witnesses and cavalier use of evidence. In December 1954, the Senate censured Senator McCarthy for unbecoming conduct. In the following year, the Subcommittee adopted new rules of procedure that better protected the rights of witnesses. The Subcommittee also strengthened the rules ensuring the right of both parties on the Subcommittee to appoint staff, initiate and approve investigations, and review all information in the Subcommittee's possession.

In 1955, Senator John McClellan of Arkansas began eighteen years of service as Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Senator McClellan appointed a young Robert F. Kennedy as the Subcommittee's Chief Counsel. That same year, members of the Subcommittee were joined by members of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee on a special committee to investigate labor racketeering. Chaired by Senator McClellan and staffed by Robert Kennedy and other Subcommittee staff members, this special committee directed much of its attention to criminal influence over the Teamsters Union, most famously calling Teamster leaders Dave Beck and Jimmy Hoffa to testify. The televised hearings of the special committee also introduced Senators Barry Goldwater and John F. Kennedy to the nation and led to the passage of the Landrum-Griffin Labor Act.



After the special committee completed its work, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations continued to investigate organized crime. In 1962, the Subcommittee held hearings during which Joseph Valachi outlined the activities of La Cosa Nostra, the Mafia. Former Subcommittee staffer Robert Kennedy—who had by then become Attorney General in his brother’s administration—used this information to prosecute prominent mob leaders and their accomplices. The Subcommittee’s investigations also led to passage of major legislation against organized crime, most notably the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) provisions of the Crime Control Act of 1970. Under Chairman McClellan, the Subcommittee also investigated fraud in the purchase of military uniforms, corruption in the Department of Agriculture’s grain storage program, securities fraud, and civil disorders and acts of terrorism. In addition, from 1962 to 1970, the Subcommittee conducted an extensive probe of political interference in the awarding of government contracts for the Pentagon’s ill-fated TFX (“tactical fighter, experimental”) aircraft. In 1968, the Subcommittee also examined charges of corruption in U.S. servicemen’s clubs in Vietnam and elsewhere around the world.

In 1973, Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson, a Democrat from Washington, replaced Senator McClellan as the Subcommittee’s Chairman. During his tenure, recalled Chief Clerk Ruth Young Watt—who served in this position from the Subcommittee’s founding until her retirement in 1979—Ranking Minority Member Charles Percy, an Illinois Republican, became more active on the Subcommittee than Chairman Jackson, who was often distracted by his Chairmanship of the Interior Committee and his active role on the Armed Services Committee.<sup>3</sup> Senator Percy also worked closely with Georgia Democrat Sam Nunn, a Subcommittee member who subsequently succeeded Senator Jackson as Subcommittee Chairman in 1979. As Chairman, Senator Nunn continued the Subcommittee’s investigations into the role of organized crime in labor-management relations and also investigated pension fraud.

Regular reversals of political fortunes in the Senate during the 1980s and 1990s saw Senator Nunn trade the chairmanship three times with Delaware Republican William Roth. Senator Nunn served from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1987 to 1995, while Senator Roth served from 1981 to 1986, and again from 1995 to 1996. These fifteen years saw a strengthening of the Subcommittee’s bipartisan tradition in which investigations were initiated by either the majority or minority and fully supported by the entire Subcommittee. For his part, Senator Roth led a wide range of investigations into commodity investment fraud, offshore banking schemes, money laundering, and child pornography. Senator Nunn led inquiries into federal drug policy, the global spread of chemical and biological weapons, abuses in federal student aid programs, computer security, airline safety, and health care fraud. Senator Nunn also appointed the Subcommittee’s first female counsel, Elea-

<sup>3</sup> It had not been uncommon in the Subcommittee’s history for the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member to work together closely despite partisan differences, but Senator Percy was unusually active while in the minority—a role that included his chairing an investigation of the hearing aid industry.

nor Hill, who served as Chief Counsel to the Minority from 1982 to 1986 and then as Chief Counsel from 1987 to 1995.

Strong bipartisan traditions continued in the 105th Congress when, in January 1997, Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine became the first woman to Chair the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Senator John Glenn of Ohio became the Ranking Minority Member, while also serving as Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee. Two years later, in the 106th Congress, after Senator Glenn's retirement, Michigan Democrat Carl Levin succeeded him as the Subcommittee's Ranking Minority Member. During Senator Collins's leadership, the Subcommittee conducted investigations into issues affecting Americans in their day-to-day lives, including mortgage fraud, deceptive mailings and sweepstakes promotions, phony credentials obtained through the Internet, day trading of securities, and securities fraud on the Internet. Senator Levin initiated an investigation into money laundering. At his request, in 1999, the Subcommittee held hearings on money laundering issues affecting private banking services provided to wealthy individuals, and, in 2001, on how major U.S. banks providing correspondent accounts to offshore banks were being used to advance money laundering and other criminal schemes.

During the 107th Congress, both Senator Collins and Senator Levin chaired the Subcommittee. Senator Collins served as Chair until June 2001, when the Senate majority changed hands; at that point, Senator Levin assumed the Chair and Senator Collins, in turn, became the Ranking Minority Member. In her first six months chairing the Subcommittee at the start of the 107th Congress, Senator Collins held hearings examining issues related to cross-border fraud, the improper operation of tissue banks, and federal programs designed to fight diabetes. When Senator Levin became Chair, as his first major effort, the Subcommittee initiated an 18-month bipartisan investigation into the Enron Corporation, which had collapsed into bankruptcy. As part of that investigation, the Subcommittee reviewed over two million pages of documents, conducted more than one hundred interviews, held four hearings, and issued three bipartisan reports focusing on the role played by Enron's Board of Directors, Enron's use of tax shelters and structured financial instruments, and how major U.S. financial institutions contributed to Enron's accounting deceptions, corporate abuses, and ultimate collapse. The Subcommittee's investigative work contributed to passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which enacted accounting and corporate reforms in July 2002. In addition, Senator Levin continued the money laundering investigation initiated while he was the Ranking Minority Member, and the Subcommittee's work contributed to enactment of major reforms strengthening U.S. anti-money laundering laws in the 2001 USA PATRIOT Act ("Patriot Act"). Also, during the 107th Congress, the Subcommittee opened new investigations into offshore tax abuses, border security, and abusive practices related to the pricing of gasoline and other fuels.

In January 2003, at the start of the 108th Congress, after the Senate majority party again changed hands, Senator Collins was elevated to Chair of the full Committee on Governmental Affairs, and Republican Senator Norman Coleman of Minnesota became

Chair of the Subcommittee. Over the next two years, Senator Coleman held hearings on topics of national and global concern including illegal file sharing on peer-to-peer networks, abusive practices in the credit counseling industry, the dangers of purchasing pharmaceuticals over the Internet, SARS preparedness, border security, and how the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had abused the United Nations Oil-for-Food Program. At the request of Senator Levin, then Ranking Minority Member, the Subcommittee examined how some U.S. accounting firms, banks, investment firms, and tax lawyers were designing, promoting, and implementing abusive tax shelters across the country. Also, at Senator Levin's request, the Subcommittee investigated how some U.S. financial institutions were failing to comply with anti-money laundering controls mandated by the Patriot Act, using as a case history Riggs Bank accounts involving Augusto Pinochet, the former President of Chile, and Equatorial Guinea, an oil-rich country in Africa.

During the 109th Congress, Senator Coleman held additional hearings on abuses associated with the United Nation's Oil-for-Food Program and initiated a series of hearings on federal contractors who were paid with taxpayer dollars but failed to meet their own tax obligations, resulting in billions of dollars in unpaid taxes. He also held hearings on border security issues, securing the global supply chain, federal travel abuses, abusive tax refund loans, and unfair energy pricing. At Senator Levin's request, the Subcommittee held hearings on offshore tax abuses responsible for \$100 billion in unpaid taxes each year, and on U.S. vulnerabilities caused by states forming two million companies each year with hidden owners.

During the 110th Congress, in January 2007, after the Senate majority shifted, Senator Levin once again became Subcommittee Chair, while Senator Coleman became the Ranking Minority Member. Senator Levin chaired the Subcommittee for the next seven years. He focused the Subcommittee on investigations into complex financial and tax matters, including unfair credit card practices, executive stock option abuses, excessive speculation in the natural gas and crude oil markets, and offshore tax abuses involving tax haven banks and non-U.S. persons dodging payment of U.S. taxes on U.S. stock dividends. The Subcommittee's work contributed to enactment of two landmark bills, the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act ("Credit CARD Act"), which reformed credit card practices, and the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA"), which tackled the problem of hidden offshore bank accounts used by U.S. persons to dodge U.S. taxes. At the request of Senator Coleman, the Subcommittee also conducted bipartisan investigations into Medicare and Medicaid health care providers who cheated on their taxes, fraudulent Medicare claims involving deceased doctors or inappropriate diagnosis codes, U.S. dirty bomb vulnerabilities, federal payroll tax abuses, abusive practices involving transit benefits, and problems involving the United Nations Development Program.

During the 111th Congress, Senator Levin continued as Subcommittee Chair, while Senator Tom Coburn joined the Subcommittee as its Ranking Minority Member. Under their leadership, the Subcommittee dedicated much of its resources to a bipar-

tisan investigation into key causes of the 2008 financial crisis, looking in particular at the role of high-risk home loans, regulatory failures, inflated credit ratings, and high-risk, conflicts-ridden financial products designed and sold by investment banks. The Subcommittee held four hearings and released thousands of documents. The Subcommittee's work contributed to passage of another landmark financial reform bill, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. In addition, the Subcommittee held hearings on excessive speculation in the wheat market, tax haven banks that helped U.S. clients evade U.S. taxes, preventing foreign corruption in the United States, and Social Security disability fraud.

During the 112th Congress, Senator Levin and Senator Coburn continued in their respective roles as Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. In a series of bipartisan investigations, the Subcommittee examined how a global banking giant, HSBC, exposed the U.S. financial system to an array of money laundering, drug trafficking, and terrorist financing risks due to poor anti-money laundering controls; how two U.S. multinational corporations, Microsoft and Hewlett Packard, engaged in offshore tax abuses; and how excessive commodity speculation by mutual funds and others were taking place without Dodd-Frank safeguards such as position limits being put into effect. At the request of Senator Coburn, the Subcommittee also conducted bipartisan investigations into problems with Social Security disability determinations that, due to poor procedures, perfunctory hearings, and poor quality decisions, resulted in over one in five disability cases containing errors or inadequate justifications; how Department of Homeland Security state and local intelligence fusion centers failed to yield significant, useful information to support federal counterterrorism efforts; and how certain federal contractors that received taxpayer dollars through stimulus funding failed to pay their federal taxes.

During the 113th Congress, Senator Levin continued as Chair, while Senator John McCain joined the Subcommittee as its Ranking Minority Member. They continued to strengthen the Subcommittee's strong bipartisan traditions, conducting all investigations in a bipartisan manner. During the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee held eight hearings and released ten reports on a variety of investigations. The investigations examined high risk credit derivatives trades at JPMorgan; hidden offshore accounts opened for U.S. clients by Credit Suisse in Switzerland; corporate tax avoidance in case studies involving Apple, Caterpillar, and a structured financial product known as basket options; online advertising abuses; conflicts of interest affecting the stock market and high speed trading; IRS processing of 501(c)(4) applications; defense acquisition reforms; and bank involvement with physical commodities. At the end of the 113th Congress, Senator Levin retired from the Senate.

During the 114th Congress, Senator Rob Portman became Subcommittee Chair with Senator Claire McCaskill serving as Ranking Minority Member. This marked the first simultaneous change in the Subcommittee's Chair and Ranking Minority Member. Under their leadership, the Subcommittee held six hearings and issued

eight reports addressing a range of public policy concerns. Investigations examined the impact of the U.S. corporate tax code on cross-border merger acquisitions; online sex trafficking; the federal government's efforts to protect unaccompanied migrant children from human trafficking; consumer protection in the cable and satellite television industry; terrorist networks' use of the Internet and social media to radicalize and recruit; the U.S. State Department's oversight of a grantee involved in political activities in Israel; and efforts by Medicare and private health insurance systems to combat the opioid epidemic. The Subcommittee also initiated the first successful civil contempt proceedings to enforce a Senate subpoena in twenty years. The Subcommittee's long-term investigation of online sex trafficking culminated in a final report and hearing on January 10, 2017, at the start of the 115th Congress.

During the 115th Congress, Senator Portman continued as Chair while Senator Tom Carper became the Subcommittee's Ranking Minority Member. Under the Chair and Ranking Member's leadership, the Subcommittee held six hearings and issued six reports. The Subcommittee examined the opioid crisis, including the price increase of an opioid overdose reversal drug and the cost to federal healthcare programs and Chinese online drug sellers shipping illicit opioids to the United States through international mail; the federal government's efforts to protect unaccompanied alien children; federal agency compliance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act; federal infrastructure permitting; and Backpage.com's knowing facilitation of online sex trafficking.

## *(2) Recent Investigations*

During the 116th Congress, Senator Portman again served as Subcommittee Chair while Senator Carper continued his tenure as Ranking Minority Member. The Subcommittee held seven hearings and issued nine reports covering a wide range of issues. The Subcommittee examined China's impact on the U.S. education system, private sector data breaches, Federal Infrastructure Permitting and FAST-41, federal cybersecurity, the cost of government shutdowns, E-Rulemaking comment systems, China's talent recruitment plans and the impact on the U.S. research enterprise, Chinese government-owned carriers and threats to U.S. networks, the art industry and U.S. policies that undermine sanctions, the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") shelter grants for Unaccompanied Alien Children ("UACs"), and oversight and implementation of the STOP Act.

Faced with the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Subcommittee conducted a virtual roundtable in April 2020 to examine the continuity of Senate operations and remote voting in times of crisis. This fully remote roundtable was the first entirely virtual proceeding held in either chamber of Congress. The processes and standards developed by Subcommittee staff in conjunction with the larger Senate community standardized the practices for virtual and hybrid hearings across the Senate.

In the 117th Congress, Senator Jon Ossoff, a Democrat from Georgia, assumed the Chair of the Subcommittee, becoming only the third freshman Senator to lead the Subcommittee, after Sen-

ator Susan Collins (in the 105th Congress) and Senator Norm Coleman (in the 108th Congress). Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin became Ranking Minority Member, resulting in a simultaneous change in both the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. Under the leadership of Chair Ossoff, the Subcommittee held five hearings and issued four reports on a wide range of issues, focusing primarily on conditions in privatized military housing, abuse and mistreatment of women in detention, and poor conditions in federal prisons.

In the 118th Congress, Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, assumed the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee and Senator Johnson continued his tenure as Ranking Minority Member. Under Senator Blumenthal's leadership, the Subcommittee held fifteen hearings and released fourteen reports on a wide range of topics, including denials of prior authorization or payment requests in the Medicare Advantage program, the facilitation of foreign influence in the United States by American consulting firms; the U.S. Coast Guard's coverup of an internal investigation into sexual assault at the Coast Guard Academy known as "Operation Fouled Anchor"; Russia's evasion of sanctions and export controls, implemented in the wake of its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and the U.S. technology found in Russian weapons systems; evidence of safety risks in the Boeing Company's 737, 777, and 787 airplanes; failure by the peer-to-peer payment platform Zelle, and three of the largest banks that own it, to adequately protect customers from widespread fraud; and the deceptive practices of major airlines in imposing hidden "junk fees" on customers.

Additionally, in the wake of the July 13, 2024, attempted assassination of then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump, the Permanent Subcommittee conducted a joint, bipartisan investigation with the full Committee into the failures of the U.S. Secret Service ("USSS"), which resulted in the release of an Interim Joint Report on September 25, 2024. The Subcommittee's Majority and Minority staff both contributed substantially to the investigation which revealed failures of planning, communication, and coordination at USSS.

## II. SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

### A. *Examining Health Care Denials and Delays in Medicare Advantage.* May 17, 2023. (S. Hrg. 118–144).

The Subcommittee's first hearing of the 118th Congress examined whether insurers operating Medicare Advantage plans have improperly denied payment or prior authorization for health services and launched a bipartisan inquiry into those practices. The hearing reviewed information demonstrating how some individuals enrolled in Medicare Advantage have faced barriers accessing necessary care and how automated technology appears to be playing a role in coverage determinations.

The hearing presented non-partisan analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation ("KFF") as well as findings from the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Office of Inspector General ("OIG"). Both analyses showed that Medicare Advantage

enrollees who appeal the denials of care overwhelmingly prevail upon appeal. This evidence also showed that only a small number of enrollees actually appeal the denials they receive. According to evidence presented by HHS OIG, some of these denials of care were for services that should have been covered under existing rules. The hearing also presented first person testimony on the impact of the appeals process on families of Medicare Advantage enrollees. Finally, the hearing examined whether insurance companies rely on algorithms—rather than doctors or health professionals—to make the decisions to deny patients care.

This hearing demonstrated the need for the Subcommittee’s further efforts to understand the coverage decisions of Medicare Advantage insurers.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Megan H. Tinker, Chief of Staff, OIG, HHS; Jeannie Fuglesten Biniek, Associate Director, Program on Medicare Policy, KFF; Christine Jensen Huberty, Lead Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources; Lisa M. Grabert, Visiting Research Professor, Marquette University College of Nursing; and Gloria Bent, Widow of Gary Bent, Medicare Advantage Enrollee.

*B. The PGA–LIV Deal: Implications for the Future of Golf and Saudi Arabia’s Influence in the United States.* July 11, 2023. (S. Hrg. 118–165).

The Subcommittee’s second hearing examined the circumstances surrounding the PGA Tour’s unexpected agreement, announced June 6, 2023, to combine its commercial golf assets with those of the Public Investment Fund (“PIF”), Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund. The hearing also sought information regarding the PGA Tour’s stated intent to preserve its tax-exempt 501(c)(6) status following the Framework Agreement. The hearing was prompted by concerns of Subcommittee members that PIF may use its tremendous financial resources to control the sport of golf, distract from Saudi Arabia’s human rights abuses, and exercise malign foreign influence over important American institutions.

The hearing included a contemporaneously published memorandum by the Subcommittee’s Majority Staff which detailed several interim findings. These findings were based on documents produced by the PGA Tour and LIV Golf in response to the Subcommittee’s bipartisan request for documents and information. The documents and hearing testimony from two prominent PGA Tour officers revealed that the Framework Agreement was reached hastily and in secret, without input from players, officers, and other key stakeholders, such as the families of 9/11 victims. The evidence also showed that PIF’s investment would exceed \$1 billion and result in PIF’s Governor, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, holding strong influence over the future of golf. The hearing included attempts by Subcommittee members to elicit commitments from the PGA Tour’s witnesses that any definitive agreement between the PGA Tour and PIF would not restrict freedom of speech or expression.

The hearing revealed important information about the PGA Tour and PIF’s Framework Agreement while demonstrating the need for further inquiry into the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund and the potential for malign foreign influence in the United States.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Ron Price, Chief Operation Officer, PGA TOUR and Jimmy Dunne, Board Member, PGA TOUR.

*C. The PGA Tour-LIV Deal: Examining the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund's Investments in the United States.* September 13, 2023. (S. Hrg. 118–172).

The Subcommittee's third hearing examined the Public Investment Fund ("PIF") of Saudi Arabia and its investments in the United States, with a focus on PIF's planned agreement to merge the assets of its professional golf league, LIV Golf, with those of the PGA Tour. The hearing was prompted by a range of concerns surrounding PIF's rapidly expanding commercial footprint in the U.S., including the lack of transparency about the fund's investments, PIF's refusal to voluntarily cooperate with the Subcommittee's inquiry, and the risk that foreign sovereign wealth funds or other state-owned enterprises could use U.S. investments to exert malign influence over American institutions.

The Chair entered into the hearing record a contemporaneously published subpoena to PIF's U.S. subsidiary, USSA International LLC, for documents related to PIF's U.S. investments and a memorandum from the Chair to members of the Subcommittee outlining the reasons for issuing the subpoena. The hearing highlighted existing loopholes in U.S. law, which leave commercial investments by foreign governments mostly in the shadows. Hearing testimony by three expert witnesses described the extent to which Saudi Arabia may be attempting to exploit these loopholes to shield its transactions from public view while aggressively pursuing its goal of controlling \$2 trillion in global assets by 2030, and how other foreign nations could pursue similar efforts. Witness testimony also highlighted Saudi Arabia's troubling human rights record and described the ways in which PIF itself has participated in Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses.

The hearing revealed concerning information about PIF's success in accumulating commercial influence in the U.S. and underscored the pressing need to further investigate the fund and its intentions. The hearing also demonstrated the shortcomings in U.S. law related to commercial investment by foreign states and the ways in which hostile foreign actors may exploit them.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Benjamin Freeman, Ph.D., Director, Democratizing Foreign Policy Program, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft; Brian Murphy, Ph.D., Managing Director, Logically AI Inc.; and Joey Shea, Researcher, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, Human Rights Watch.

*D. Coast Guard Academy Whistleblowers: Stories of Sexual Assault and Harassment.* December 12, 2023. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On December 12, 2023, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Coast Guard Academy. This hearing followed the launch of a bipartisan inquiry on September 12, 2023, into the Coast Guard's alleged mishandling of sexual assault and sexual harassment cases at the Coast Guard Academy. The Subcommittee's inquiry was prompted by the Coast Guard's disclosure of an



investigation called “Operation Fouled Anchor,” which looked at instances of sexual assault at the Coast Guard Academy over a period of nearly two decades and found that the Academy failed to create a culture that deterred sexual misconduct, adequately prosecuted perpetrators, and provided support for victims. Since launching its inquiry, the Subcommittee received outreach from numerous whistleblowers who recounted their experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment at the Coast Guard Academy and within the Coast Guard, as well as the Coast Guard’s handling of those cases.

The Subcommittee heard from four current and former Coast Guard Academy cadets, who presented testimony describing how the Coast Guard enabled a culture that tolerated sexual misconduct and inhibited survivors’ ability to report and recover. Witnesses testified that, in some instances, the mishandling of their cases led to mental health struggles, suicide attempts, tarnished or lost relationships, or the decision to leave the Academy. The Subcommittee also heard from an expert who explained that the Coast Guard’s mishandling of sexual misconduct can create national security risks, and who emphasized the need for accountability to be a part of the solution to this sustained problem.

The testimony provided during the hearing demonstrated that the Coast Guard’s culture allowed sexual assault and sexual harassment to persist, both at the Academy and in the Coast Guard, for decades. The hearing exhibited the need for further inquiry into the handling of sexual misconduct cases at the Coast Guard Academy.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Commander Jennifer L. Yount, USCG, Ret., United States Coast Guard Academy, Class of 1981; Caitlin E. Maro, Former Member of United States Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2008; Lieutenant Melissa McCafferty, United States Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2011; First Class Kyra Grace Holmstrup, United States Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2024; and Colonel Lorry M. Fenner, USAF, Ret., Director of Government Affairs, Service Women’s Action Network.

*E. Foreign Influence in the United States: Reviewing Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey & Company, M. Klein and Company, and Teneo’s Compliance with Congressional Subpoenas.* February 6, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Subcommittee’s hearing elicited testimony from four U.S. consultants for the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (the “PIF”) regarding their work for the PIF and their compliance with a Congressional subpoena. The hearing took place as part of the Subcommittee’s investigation into Saudi Arabia’s influence in the United States through the extensive investments made by the PIF, including but not limited to the PIF’s investments in U.S. golf. The four consultants, Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey & Company, M. Klein and Company, and Teneo (collectively, “the PIF Consultants”), are all U.S.-based companies that have been publicly reported as having worked for the PIF. The Subcommittee made requests to each of the PIF Consultants for records related to their work for the PIF on August 16, 2023, and all of the PIF Consult-

ants refused to voluntarily comply with the Subcommittee's requests. On November 2, 2023, the Subcommittee issued subpoenas to the PIF Consultants requesting records related to the PIF's strategic investments in the U.S., and the work each company did on behalf of the PIF. After these subpoenas were issued, the PIF sought and was granted temporary injunctions in a Saudi Arabia Administrative Court to prevent the PIF Consultants from complying with the Congressional subpoena. Citing the injunction and their contracts with the PIF, the PIF Consultants refused to fully comply with the Subcommittee's subpoena.

The hearing solicited information from each of the consultants regarding the work performed by the PIF and addressed the implications of their respective decisions to defer to a foreign court over U.S. law. The PIF Consultants admitted to providing documents to the Subcommittee only after they received authorization to do so by the PIF, and only to the extent permitted by the PIF, indicating prioritization of the preferences of the PIF, and the laws of Saudi Arabia, over the United States. Subcommittee Members elicited commitments by the PIF Consultants to comply with the subpoena and to appear before the Subcommittee for further questions as necessary.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Rich Lesser, Global Chair, Boston Consulting Group; Bob Sternfels, Global Managing Partner, McKinsey & Company; Michael Klein, Managing Partner, M. Klein & Company; Paul Keary, Chief Executive Officer, Teneo.

*F. The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia's War in Ukraine: How and Why.* February 27, 2024 (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Subcommittee's hearing examined how American-manufactured semiconductors continue to be found in weapons used by Russia in its war against Ukraine, despite a series of U.S. export controls implemented in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. During the hearing, three expert witnesses testified regarding the evidence that U.S.-manufactured products are continuing to reach Russia in violation of export controls, how Russia obtains and uses these components, and the implications of export control violations.

The hearing addressed what additional steps American manufacturers need to take to ensure that their products do not end up in Russia. Witnesses provided testimony stating that tools and technology exist that companies could utilize to track the semiconductor supply chain, and that improved corporate compliance programs and coordination with regulators is needed. Prior to the hearing, the Subcommittee shared a memorandum with Members, which the Chair entered into the record, which demonstrated that exports from four U.S. semiconductor manufacturers (Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Analog Devices Inc., Intel Corporation, and Texas Instruments Inc.) to entities in countries bordering Russia (including Armenia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey) had increased since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The hearing demonstrated the need for further inquiry into the manufacturers whose products continue to be found in Russian weapons systems.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Elina Ribakova, Director of The International Affairs Program and Vice President for Foreign Policy, Kyiv School of Economics; James Byrne, Director, Open-Source Intelligence and Analysis Research Group Royal United Services Institute; Damien Spleeters, Deputy Director of Operations, Conflict Armament Research.

*G. Examining Boeing's Broken Safety Culture: Firsthand Accounts.* April 17, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On April 17, 2024, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing with whistleblowers alleging manufacturing deficiencies at The Boeing Company. This hearing was held as part of an inquiry launched on March 19, 2024, after the Subcommittee became aware that whistleblowers had raised safety concerns relating to the manufacturing of Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft. A current Boeing Quality Engineer testified regarding his concerns with the manufacturing of these aircraft and about the retaliation he experienced after sharing his concerns with his supervisors.

A former Boeing engineer, as well as a former Boeing and FAA employee, testified regarding their knowledge of Boeing's manufacturing processes and experiences speaking up in the wake of two crashes of Boeing 737 MAX airplanes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people. An expert in organizational safety culture also testified about safety principles and what airplane manufacturers like Boeing must do to ensure a healthy safety culture.

Witnesses also answered questions about how to empower whistleblowers, and about the relationship between Boeing and the FAA. The hearing addressed serious allegations of manufacturing deficiencies at Boeing, highlighting the need for further inquiry into the company's production processes and safety culture.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Sam Salehpour, Current Quality Engineer, The Boeing Company; Ed Pierson, Executive Director, The Foundation for Aviation Safety, and Former Boeing Manager; Joe Jacobsen, Aerospace Engineer and Technical Advisor, the Foundation for Aviation Safety, and Former FAA Engineer, Shawn Pruchnicki, Ph.D, Professional Practice Assistant Professor, Integrated Systems Engineering, The Ohio State University.

*H. Fraud Alert!: Shedding Light on Zelle.* May 21, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation held a hearing on May 21, 2024, to examine fraud experienced by consumers using Zelle, the largest peer-to-peer payment (P2P) service in the United States. The hearing was held as part of an ongoing investigation into Zelle and the largest of the seven banks that own it and was prompted by concerns raised to the Subcommittee of consumers falling victim to fraud and scams on Zelle. The hearing sought information on why consumers are often not reimbursed by their banks after submitting fraud claims.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from two individuals who personally experienced scams on Zelle, as well as from two experts in consumer payments, who highlighted the heightened rates of fraud on Zelle. Expert witnesses testified that Zelle poses unique

risks to consumers due to limited information available regarding their rights and protections for unauthorized transactions, customer service support that is split between Zelle and participating banks, and vulnerable authorization safeguards.

The hearing revealed important information on the sophisticated nature of fraud and scams being perpetrated on Zelle, the types of consumers that are commonly targeted, the risks consumers face, and the banks' failures to reimburse customers who are victims of scams. The hearing demonstrated the need for further inquiry into accountability on Zelle and for increased safeguards to protect customers from the harmful effects of fraud and scams on platforms like Zelle.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Stephanie Tatar, Founding Attorney, Tatar Law Firm; Ariana Duval, Student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Experienced Scam on Zelle; John Breyault, Vice President, Public Policy—Telecommunications and Fraud, National Consumers League; Anne Humphreys, Retiree, Experienced Scam on Zelle; Delicia Hand, Senior Director—Digital Marketplace; Consumer Reports.

*I. Coast Guard Oversight: Sexual Assault and Harassment.* June 11, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On June 11, 2024, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing as part of its ongoing inquiry into sexual assault and sexual harassment in the United States Coast Guard. The hearing featured testimony from Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan. Admiral Fagan was accompanied in her testimony by Master Chief Heath Jones, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard.

The hearing was the second held as part of the Subcommittee's bipartisan inquiry, which began on September 12, 2023. The inquiry was prompted by the disclosure of an internal Coast Guard investigation known as "Operation Fouled Anchor," which looked at the Coast Guard Academy's handling of sexual assault from the late 1980s through 2006 and found that the Academy failed to create a culture that deterred sexual misconduct, adequately prosecuted perpetrators, and provided support for victims. The Subcommittee's investigation has found that sexual assault and harassment remain persistent problems for the Coast Guard and that the Coast Guard has failed to fully address them.

The hearing included testimony regarding the Coast Guard's efforts to combat sexual misconduct both at the Coast Guard Academy and throughout its ranks, its efforts to hold wrongdoers accountable, its failure to disclose Operation Fouled Anchor to Congress and the public after the investigation concluded in 2020, and its cooperation with the Subcommittee's inquiry. The hearing underscored the need for further inquiry into the Coast Guard's handling of sexual misconduct cases and the necessity for the full cooperation of the Coast Guard with the Subcommittee.

The hearing featured one witness Admiral Linda L. Fagan, Commandant, United States Coast Guard.

*J. Boeing's Broken Safety Culture: CEO Dave Calhoun Testifies.*  
June 18, 2024 (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On June 18, 2024, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing with Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dave Calhoun as part of its inquiry into The Boeing Company and its safety culture. Mr. Calhoun was accompanied in his testimony by Boeing Chief Engineer Howard McKenzie.

Mr. Calhoun and Mr. McKenzie answered questions regarding Boeing's safety practices, including changes that have been made in the wake of two fatal crashes of Boeing 737–MAX 8 aircraft in 2018 and 2019, as well as a January 2024 incident in which a door plug blew off of a Boeing 737 MAX 9 operated by Alaska Airlines. They also addressed questions related to concerns raised by Boeing engineer Sam Salehpour regarding alleged manufacturing shortcuts in 787 and 777 airplanes.

During the hearing, the Chair entered into the record a memorandum outlining previously undisclosed whistleblower allegations, including new allegations regarding Boeing's failure to properly handle non-conforming parts, the elimination of inspections, and retaliation against whistleblowers.

The hearing revealed important information about Boeing's safety culture and underscored the need for more oversight over Boeing's safety and quality processes.

The hearing featured one witness David Calhoun, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Boeing Company.

*K. Instant Payments, Instant Losses: Zelle and the Big Banks Fail to Protect Consumers from Fraud.* July 23, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation held a hearing on July 23, 2024, to examine how Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo handle scams and fraud on Zelle. Zelle, the largest peer-to-peer payment (P2P) service in the United States, allows near instant transfer of customers' money from their bank accounts. Zelle is operated by its parent company, Early Warning Services, which is owned by seven U.S. banks. The Chief Executive Officer of Early Warning Services, as well as executives from its three largest owner banks, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo, testified at the hearing.

During the hearing, the Chair entered into the record a majority staff report that revealed new information on consumer protection on the Zelle network. The report, informed by data and documents related to scams and fraud on the Zelle network between 2019 and 2023, found that consumers are decreasingly reimbursed for claims of fraud on Zelle, that Zelle and its owner banks promote Zelle for commercial payments without consumer protections available for credit cards, and that Zelle's owner generates revenue from the data it collects from consumers and member banks.

At the hearing, witnesses for Zelle and the banks were questioned about their reimbursement practices, the use of Zelle in commercial transactions, and the financial gain associated with Zelle. The hearing demonstrated the need for increased safeguards to protect customers from the harmful effects of fraud and scams on platforms like Zelle.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including name, Cameron Fowler, Chief Executive Officer, Early Warning Services, LLC; Melissa Feldsher, Managing Director, Head of Commerce Enablement, JPMorgan Chase & Company; Mark Monaco, Head of Global Payment Solutions, Bank of America Corporation; Adam Vancini, Executive Vice President and Head of Payments for Consumer, Small & Business Banking, Wells Fargo & Company.

*L. Coast Guard Whistleblowers: Sexual Assault and Harassment.* August 08, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On August 8, 2024, the Subcommittee held a hearing in New London, Connecticut, as part of its ongoing inquiry into the Coast Guard’s handling of sexual assault and harassment. The hearing featured testimony from five current and former enlisted members of the Coast Guard. Each witness shared their personal experience of sexual assault and sexual harassment, as well as of the mishandling of their cases including but not limited to instances of retaliation for reporting misconduct. They also provided additional testimony on the cultural factors that they believe led to their experience and on what more the Coast Guard needs to do to make past victims whole and prevent future misconduct.

During the hearing, the Chair entered into the record an interim staff report detailing accounts from the more than 80 whistleblowers who shared their experiences of sexual assault or harassment with the Subcommittee since its investigation began in September 2023.

The hearing explored the patterns of mishandling of cases, disregard of victims, and limited accountability for perpetrators that have plagued the Coast Guard since 1970s and appear to continue into the present. The interim report and hearing testimony illustrated the profound impacts these persistent problems have had on victims of sexual misconduct. This highlights the need for further inquiry into the matter.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Julian Bell, Chief Warrant Officer 4, United States Coast Guard; Crystal Van Den Heuvel, Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, United States Coast Guard; Tina Owen, Lieutenant Commander (Ret.), United States Coast Guard; Shawna Ward, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.), United States Coast Guard; Meghan Klement, Former Seaman, United States Coast Guard.

*M. The U.S. Technology Fueling the Russian War Machine.* September 10, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Subcommittee’s hearing examined how Russia continues to obtain U.S.-manufactured semiconductors despite export controls implemented after its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The hearing featured testimony from executives of four major U.S. semiconductor manufacturers: Analog Devices, Advanced Micro Devices, Intel, and Texas Instruments, each of which is among the largest U.S. manufacturers whose components have been found in Russian weapons. The Subcommittee has been investigating these companies since September 2023 to understand what more can be done to prevent Russia from accessing their components.

During the hearing, the Chair entered into the record an interim majority staff report with preliminary findings from its inquiry. The report detailed failures to adequately respond to external tracing requests and insufficient internal and distributor auditing at each of the companies. It also highlighted a general lack of proactive compliance in the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

The hearing addressed measures companies can take to keep American semiconductors out of Russia, including ensuring that internal and distributor audits are conducted regularly, working with the Bureau of Industry and Security at the Department of Commerce to evaluate and improve compliance programs, and cooperate with entities engaged in tracing recovered semiconductors to help identify and close channels that funnel chips to Russia.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Michelle B. Stout, Vice President, Global Trade Compliance & Government Affairs, Analog Devices, Inc; Tiffany Scurry, Corporate Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc; Jeff Rittener, Chief Trade Officer and Vice President, International Trade Group, Intel Corporation; Shannon Thompson, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel for Commercial Operations, Texas Instruments, Inc.

*N. FAA Oversight of Boeing's Broken Safety Culture.* September 25, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

On September 25, 2024, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing with Administrator Michael Whitaker, head of the Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”), its third hearing as part of its ongoing inquiry into The Boeing Company and its quality and safety practices. The hearing examined the FAA’s oversight of Boeing’s safety culture in the wake of several incidents involving Boeing aircraft.

Administrator Whitaker answered questions about the steps the FAA is taking to ensure that Boeing is held to the high standards expected of an aircraft manufacturer, pointing to Boeing’s corrective action plan that includes key performance indicators to monitor Boeing’s production and quality systems. He also addressed questions about the FAA’s inspection process and its treatment of whistleblowers.

During the hearing, the Chair entered into the record a memorandum revealing new details on ongoing Boeing practices described by whistleblowers, including mismanagement of nonconforming parts, removal of quality inspections, and pressure to prioritize speed over quality.

The hearing raised important questions about the effectiveness of the FAA’s oversight of Boeing’s safety procedures and proposed corrective actions, highlighting the need for further inquiry into Boeing and its regulation by the FAA.

The hearing featured one witness the Honorable Michael G. Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration.

*O. The Sky's the Limit—New Revelations About Airline Fees.* December 4, 2024. (S. Hrg. 118–XXX).

The Subcommittee’s hearing examined airline fees for products and services that were once included in the price of airfare, which

are commonly called “ancillary fees.” The hearing followed a year-long inquiry into these practices, focusing on five major U.S. airlines—American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Spirit Airlines, and United Airlines—and a majority staff report titled, “The Sky’s the Limit: The Rise of Junk Fees in American Travel,” released on November 26, 2024. Senior executives from each of the airlines testified at the hearing.

The hearing addressed how ancillary fees on certain services obscure the total cost of travel and are unconnected to the actual cost of providing the services; the use of dynamic pricing strategies that use algorithms to target prices based on customer data; incentive payments implemented by two of the airlines to collect certain fees from passengers before boarding their flight; and various anti-competitive practices employed by airlines, including the use of co-branded credit cards, loyalty programs, and airport infrastructure.

Subcommittee Members questioned witnesses on the impacts of rising ancillary fees for consumers, the airlines’ increasing reliance on algorithms and personal data to price fees, and their family seating practices and policies. Subcommittee members also asked the airline executives about their airlines’ efforts to stop the Department of Transportation from implementing fee transparency and fee-free family seating regulations. During the hearing Chair Richard Blumenthal entered into the record the Subcommittee’s staff report, as well as letters to the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Treasury requesting further action related to practices addressed at the hearing.

The hearing revealed important information about the current state of airline industry fees and pricing while demonstrating the need for stronger consumer protections that increase ancillary fee transparency, revive airline competition, and ensure that airlines do not charge parents to sit next to their minor children.

The hearing featured one panel of witnesses including Steve Johnson, Vice Chair and Chief Strategy Officer, American Airlines, Inc; Peter Carter, Chief External Affairs Officer, Delta Air Lines, Inc; Andrew Nocella, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, United Airlines, Inc; Robert Schroeter, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Frontier Airlines, Inc; And Executive Vice President and Chief, Commercial Officer, Spirit Airlines, Inc.

### III. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations does not have legislative authority, however, because its investigations play an important role in bringing issues to the attention of Congress and the public, the Subcommittee’s work contributes to the development of legislative initiatives. The Subcommittee’s activity during the 118th Congress was no exception, with Subcommittee hearings and Members playing prominent roles in numerous legislative initiatives.



## IV. REPORTS

In connection with its investigations, the Subcommittee often issues lengthy and detailed reports. During the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee released thirteen such reports, listed below.

*A. Preliminary Information on Agreement Between PGA Tour and Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund.* July 10, 2023.

1. Summary

On June 12, 2023, the Subcommittee launched an inquiry into the proposed deal between the PGA Tour—the premier membership organization for professional golfers in North America—and LIV Golf, an entity backed by Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund (“PIF”) to create a new golf-related entity. This deal was unexpectedly announced on June 6, 2023, despite litigation between PGA Tour and LIV Golf, continued competition for players, and PGA Tour’s stated concerns about Saudi Arabian involvement in professional golf.

On July 10, 2023, the Subcommittee issued a majority staff report examining what was known about the proposed deal between the PGA Tour and the PIF.<sup>4</sup> The report detailed events that led to the proposed agreement, Saudi government representatives’ involvement in the deal, and the future of golf in the United States. Directly following the report, on July 11, 2023, the Subcommittee held a hearing with representatives from the PGA Tour to discuss the circumstances surrounding the agreement.

The Subcommittee’s report illustrated the need for further inquiry into PIF’s United States investments and Saudi Arabian influence efforts in the United States. PIF’s desire for a prominent role in golf and high-profile golf events hosted in (or sponsored by) Saudi Arabia were consistent with the objective laid out by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (the de facto Saudi leader) in “Vision 2030,” a government-sponsored project that, in part, aims to increase Saudi investment in international sports to enhance Saudi Arabia’s global influence. The Subcommittee’s report showed that, while PIF’s growth included significant investment in the United States, the exact scope of those investments and their role in larger strategic Saudi Arabian influence campaigns remained largely unknown.

*B. Majority Staff Memorandum: The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia’s War in Ukraine—How and Why.* February 21, 2024.

1. Summary

On February 21, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff memorandum ahead of a hearing on the prevalence of American-manufactured semiconductors in Russian weapons used in its war against Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> This memorandum examined information

<sup>4</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, Preliminary Information on Agreement Between PGA Tour and Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund, (Jul. 10, 2023), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023-07-10-PSI-Majority-Staff-Memorandum-Regarding-Preliminary-Information-on-Agreement-Between-PGA-Tour-and-Saudi-Arabian-Public-Investment-Fund-with-Consolidated-Appendix.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, Memorandum: The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia’s War in Ukraine: How and Why, (Feb. 21, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024-02-21-Memorandum-The-U.S.-Technology-Fueling-Russia-s-War-in-Ukraine-How-and-Why.pdf>.

obtained by the Subcommittee from four of the largest U.S. semiconductor producers and showed repeated incidents of semiconductors being exported to countries known to be a conduit for Russia's evasion of sanctions.

The Subcommittee's memorandum was released as a part of a PSI inquiry into compliance by U.S. manufacturers with technology sanctions imposed against Russia after its invasion of Ukraine in 2022. PSI launched this inquiry in September 2023 and sought documents and information from four of the largest producers of semiconductors in the United States, Advanced Micro Devices Inc. ("AMD"), Analog Devices Inc. ("Analog Devices"), Intel Corporation ("Intel"), and Texas Instruments Incorporated ("Texas Instruments"). These four companies were selected due to public reports regarding the repeated appearance of their products in Russian military equipment and/or evidence that their products continued to flow to Russia despite export controls.

Information obtained by PSI, and included in the Subcommittee's memorandum, showed significant increases between 2021 and 2024 in exports to countries that were not subject to targeted restrictions but that had been identified as potentially being used by Russia to evade U.S. export controls, including Armenia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey. The stark increases for these four companies included exports to Kazakhstan increasing almost 1,000 times from 2021 to 2022. For the same period, exports to Georgia increased over 34 times, exports to Armenia were over 28 times greater, exports to Turkey more than doubled, and exports to Finland were roughly 1.5 times greater.

*C. Youth Vaping Epidemic: Federal Regulation of E-Cigarettes and the Rise of JUUL and Puff Bar. February 29, 2024.*

1. Summary

On February 29, 2024 the Subcommittee released a 160-page Majority staff report on the youth vaping epidemic.<sup>6</sup> The report concluded a nearly four year investigation initiated by the Subcommittee in March 2019 as a bipartisan investigation under then-Chair Rob Portman and Ranking Member Tom Carper. During the course of its investigation, the Subcommittee reviewed more than 713,000 pages of documents from e-cigarette manufacturers JUUL Labs, Inc. ("JUUL") and Puff Bar, the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"), Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"), and the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy ("SBA OA"). The Subcommittee also interviewed and received briefings from former government officials at HHS, FDA, and SBA OA, as well as representatives from JUUL, Puff Bar, social media companies, and public health experts and advocates. The report released by the Subcommittee examined the use of e-cigarettes by young people, the federal government's response to the rise of youth vaping, and e-cigarette companies' marketing practices.

[www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.2.21-PSI-Staff-Memo-to-Members-on-Sanctions-Hearing.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.2.21-PSI-Staff-Memo-to-Members-on-Sanctions-Hearing.pdf).

<sup>6</sup>Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *The Youth Vaping Epidemic: Federal Regulation of E-cigarettes and the Rise of JUUL and Puff Bar*, (Feb. 29, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024-02-29-PSI-E-cig-Report-Final.pdf>.

The Subcommittee's investigation and report demonstrated that, while the decline in cigarette smoking rates among U.S. youth, was one of the great public health successes of the early 21st century, this success was undermined by the rapid rise in e-cigarette use in the 2010s. Data from the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that more than 3.6 million middle school and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2018—an increase of more than 2.8 million students from 2013. By 2019, this number had reached a peak of 5 million. These rates were so concerning that the then U.S. Surgeon General labeled the phenomenon a “public health epidemic”. While youth e-cigarette usage had declined since 2019, more than 2.13 million middle and high school students continued to use e-cigarettes as of 2023. The vast majority of youth used products that came in fruit, candy, or mint flavors, whose appeal to the younger population had long been known to both tobacco companies and public health authorities.

The Subcommittee's majority staff report found that the federal government missed a key opportunity to curb youth use of e-cigarettes in 2016, and that subsequent efforts had not fully addressed the risks of flavored e-cigarette products and youth usage. The report warned that without further action, the pattern of recent years—in which federal regulatory shortcomings enabled a rotating cast of opportunistic nicotine companies to create a new generation of addicts—could easily repeat itself. Furthermore, the report revealed new evidence detailing the ways in which e-cigarette companies, including JUUL and Puff Bar, had continued to exploit weaknesses in FDA's approach.

## 2. Key Findings

a. The Federal Government missed a crucial opportunity to curb youth e-cigarette use in 2016, enabling a new generation of addicts.

b. Regulatory efforts failed to curtail unauthorized e-cigarette products and stop youth usage.

c. JUUL depended on flavors the company knew appealed to youth.

d. JUUL's early marketing appealed to youth, and changes made by the company failed to curb youth interest.

e. Puff Bar capitalized on JUUL's removal of flavors to become the number one brand among youth by 2021.

f. Puff Bar intentionally adopted some of JUUL's practices while trying to avoid the scrutiny that brought the company down.

## 3. Recommendations

a. FDA should eliminate enforcement discretion for any flavored e-cigarette products that promote youth and young adult tobacco product initiation and long-term use.

b. Congress should examine the degree to which economic and other commercial considerations are and should be factored into the development of public health regulations, especially those intended to address child health.

c. FDA should extend the marketing restrictions that apply to cigarettes to e-cigarettes and other similar products, including prohibitions on sponsorship of athletic, music, or cultural events.

d. Congress should examine and, where necessary, update the laws governing the marketing of age-restricted products such as e-cigarettes to ensure restrictions on marketing to children are effective and account for modern marketing strategies.

e. Congress should pass legislation that codifies, supports, and funds public awareness, education, and prevention campaigns to educate youth and young adults, parents, and healthcare providers about the health risks of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, as well as outreach to medically underserved communities regarding tobacco-use prevention and cessation.

f. Federal health agencies should increase efforts to research and develop smoking cessation and nicotine addiction interventions and therapies for children and young adults.

g. The Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs should institute reforms, including recommendations from the Government Accountability Office and the Administrative Conference of the United States, to improve the transparency of the regulatory review process. Additional transparency could help ensure public awareness of the scientific evidence underlying changes to draft rules and responsibility for these changes.

h. Congress should examine the degree to which social media companies' age gating capabilities are effective, and social media companies should determine how these capabilities can be strengthened.

i. FDA should quickly fulfill the court-ordered mandate to review all timely-submitted e-cigarette product applications.

j. FDA should utilize all its enforcement tools and work with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Justice and Customs and Border Protection, to clear the market of illegal tobacco products more rapidly and to help prevent youth use of tobacco products.

*D. Majority Staff Memorandum: Preliminary Information from the Subcommittee's Inquiry into Boeing's Safety and Quality Practices. June 17, 2024.*

1. Summary

On June 17, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff memorandum examining the safety and quality practices at The Boeing Company ("Boeing" or "the company") as part of the Subcommittee's inquiry into Boeing's quality and safety practices.<sup>7</sup> The inquiry was launched on March 19, 2024, after the Subcommittee received allegations from a whistleblower indicating that there were safety flaws in the process for manufacturing several of Boeing's aircraft. The memorandum, which referenced documents and accounts provided by whistleblowers familiar with Boeing's production at facilities in Washington state and South Carolina, painted a troubling picture of a company that prioritized speed of manufacturing and cutting costs over ensuring the quality and

<sup>7</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, Memorandum: Preliminary Information from the Subcommittee's Inquiry into Boeing's Safety and Quality Practices, (June 17, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.06.17-PSI-Majority-Staff-Memorandum.pdf>.

safety of aircraft. These misplaced priorities appeared to contribute to a safety culture that insufficiently valued and addressed the root causes of employee concerns and insufficiently deterred retaliation against employees that spoke up. The memorandum preceded a hearing held by the Subcommittee during which Boeing Chief Executive Officer Dave Calhoun, accompanied by Boeing Chief Engineer Howard McKenzie, testified about Boeing's safety culture and quality practices.

*E. A Fast and Easy Way to Lose Money: Insufficient Consumer Protection on the Zelle Network.* July 23, 2024.

1. Summary

On July 23, 2024, the Subcommittee released a 62-page majority staff report on the fraud and scam reimbursement practices of the Zelle network, a peer-to-peer payment platform.<sup>8</sup> This report followed a 13-month inquiry into Early Warning Services, LLC (“EWS”), the operator of Zelle, and the three largest banks that offer Zelle and co-own EWS: JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo. The inquiry examined the prevalence of fraud and scams on peer-to-peer platforms, which allow consumers to transfer money instantly to another person or business. Zelle, a peer-to-peer platform owned and operated by Early Warning Services, LLC (“EWS”), which is itself owned by a consortium of large banks, outpaced competitors like Cash App and Venmo in recent years to become the dominant peer-to-peer platform in the United States, making the company an industry leader in digital finance and instant payments.

The Subcommittee's report found that, despite a legal mandate in the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to reimburse fraud, the three banks investigated collectively reimbursed a fraction of fraud disputes. The Subcommittee also found evidence that Zelle and its owner banks promoted use of the platform for commercial purposes, while claiming that it was intended for use among people users know and trust. Additionally, the report detailed how EWS drove profits for banks by selling customer data to financial service companies. Contemporaneously with the release of the report, the Subcommittee held a hearing with representatives from each of the three banks and EWS to examine how they handle scams and fraud on Zelle.

2. Key Findings

a. Despite a legal mandate in the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to reimburse fraud, JPMorgan, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo collectively reimbursed consumers for approximately 38%, or \$64 million, of the \$166 million worth of fraud disputes at these banks in 2023, leaving over \$100 million worth of fraud disputes unreimbursed that year.

b. Despite stating on its website that Zelle is intended as a way to send and receive money between “friends, family, and others you trust,” commercial usage of Zelle payments grew significantly, with the number of profiles on Zelle associated with a business growing

<sup>8</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *A Fast and Easy Way to Lose Money: Insufficient Consumer Protection on the Zelle Network*, (July 23, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.7.23-PSI-Majority-Staff-Report-on-Zelle.pdf>.

over 18 times from 2019 to 2023. By comparison, the total processed value of all payments on the Zelle Network grew just over four times in the same time frame.

c. Zelle expanded its reimbursement policy in June 2023, describing the expansion of reimbursement rules as “well above existing legal and regulatory requirements,” but the new policy covered only a small percentage of all scam disputes on the Zelle Network. The policy change resulted in \$18.3 million in reimbursed scam claims in the six months following its implementation, amounting to approximately 15–20% of all scam disputes on the Zelle Network within that timeframe.

d. EWS oversaw governance of the Zelle Network and monitors it for noncompliance with network policies. Six out of seven of the banks that co-own EWS were in violation of Zelle Network policies at least once in the 26-month period reviewed by PSI for having elevated rates of scams and fraud at their institution.

e. EWS collected voluminous real-time data on the consumers who used Zelle, directly and through the banks that participated in the Zelle Network. EWS used the data it collected on consumers to develop risk management tools that it sold to financial services companies. EWS operated Zelle at a loss but told PSI that the data-based products it sold are its “profit driver.”

f. Between 2019 and 2022, JPMorgan, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo on average reimbursed consumers under 35 at lower rates than older consumers. In 2022, consumers over 65 at these banks were almost twice as likely to be reimbursed for fraud disputes than consumers under 18, with an average of 35% of consumers under 18 reimbursed versus 68% of consumers over 65. Zelle and the banks that offer it provided few controls that could empower parents to protect their minor children, such as the ability to disable Zelle in their child’s banking app. These banks appeared to have fewer safety protocols in place for minors than for their older customers.

### 3. Recommendations

a. Congress should amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require financial institutions to reimburse consumers for “fraudulently induced” authorized transactions. Amidst a surge in increasingly sophisticated scams and fraud, such an amendment would offer consumers more robust protection should they fall victim to a scam.

b. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”) should update Regulation E to require financial institutions to provide greater transparency when responding to disputed transactions by providing further clarity on what constitutes a “reasonable” investigation. This would create a higher standard for dispute investigations, giving banks a minimum set of requirements that they must meet as part of a thorough investigation of disputed claims.

c. Where P2P payments are intended for commercial purposes, payment platforms should be required to provide purchase protections that they provide for other payment methods, such as for credit cards. By extending purchase protections to P2P payments, consumers could engage with small businesses knowing that they

are protected by the reimbursement standards offered by other payment methods in commercial transactions.

d. EWS and banks that offer Zelle should implement a robust framework to share specific and real time information regarding scams and fraud with law enforcement and other financial institutions. This framework would strengthen those institutions' collective defenses to scams and fraud and empower law enforcement to apprehend bad actors.

e. In the face of growing digitization of finance, Congress and the CFPB should further limit the use of consumer financial data collected by payment platforms. Better disclosures and more meaningful limitations on the use of financial data would help protect consumers from unwanted harvesting of their data.

f. EWS should require banks that offer Zelle to allow parents to disable Zelle in their child's online banking app and to notify parents of large transactions initiated by their child. Developing such capabilities would empower parents to monitor the safety of their child's financial decision making.

g. Congress should amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to clarify that EWS, and any other financial services companies that play a central role in facilitating electronic fund transfers, are considered a "financial institution" under the statute. Expanding the definition to include these entities would make it more difficult for EWS to avoid responsibility to protect consumers.

*F. A Pervasive Problem: Voices of Coast Guard Sexual Assault and Harassment Survivors.* August 7, 2024.

1. Summary

On August 7, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff report that presented accounts received from the more than 80 whistleblowers who had come forward to the Subcommittee to report their personal experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the U.S. Coast Guard and at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (the "Academy").<sup>9</sup> The report was immediately followed by a hearing held in New London, Connecticut, during which five current and former Coast Guard members shared their experiences of sexual assault and harassment. This report and hearing were a part of a bipartisan inquiry, launched in September 2023, into the Coast Guard's mishandling of sexual assault and sexual harassment at the Coast Guard Academy. The stories detailed in the report, spanning from the 1970s through the 2020s, depicted systemic failures at the Coast Guard Academy and in the Coast Guard.

Whistleblower accounts shared in the report reflected the Coast Guard's failure to not only protect personnel from sexual assault and harassment, but to treat victims with dignity and respect. Their stories detailed the Coast Guard's systemic inability to address or prevent sexual assault and harassment, including a culture of silence, retaliation, and failed accountability.

<sup>9</sup>Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *A Pervasive Problem: Voices of Coast Guard Sexual Assault and Harassment Survivors*, (Aug. 7, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.08.07-PSI-Majority-Staff-Report-Voices-of-Coast-Guard-Sexual-Assault-and-Harassment-Survivors.pdf>.

## 2. Key Findings

Survivor stories received by the Subcommittee and presented in this report included the following common themes:

- a. A culture of ostracization, shaming, and disbelief deterred victims of abuse from reporting.
- b. Leadership discouraged victims of abuse from reporting.
- c. Fear of punishment for collateral misconduct deterred victims of abuse from reporting.
- d. Investigations into abuse allegations were retraumatizing and failed to enforce meaningful accountability for perpetrators.
- e. Victims of abuse faced career retaliation after reporting.
- f. This flawed culture at the Coast Guard has had dire consequences for victims.
- g. The problem of mishandled sexual assault and harassment is one of the present.
- h. The victim outreach associated with Operation Fouled Anchor (“OFA”) was inadequate and retraumatizing.
- i. The Coast Guard has failed to provide survivors the necessary documentation to access U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services.
- j. The Coast Guard has failed to provide survivors with their records, impacting their ability to understand what happened to them and to move forward with their lives.

*G. The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia’s War in Ukraine: Examining Semiconductor Manufacturers’ Compliance with Export Controls.* September 10, 2024.

### 1. Summary

On September 10, 2024, the Subcommittee released a 43 page majority staff report detailing its findings following a year-long investigation into the continued presence of U.S. manufactured semiconductors in Russian weapons found on battlefields in Ukraine. The Subcommittee’s inquiry and subsequent report focused on four U.S.-based semiconductor manufacturers whose products had reportedly appeared in Russian weapons on a consistent basis: Analog Devices, Intel, Texas Instruments, and Advanced Micro Devices Incorporated (AMD).

The release of the Subcommittee’s report coincided with a hearing at which representatives from the four companies testified regarding the flaws in their export controls compliance programs.<sup>10</sup> The Subcommittee’s majority staff report found that U.S. semiconductor manufacturer efforts had failed to meaningfully prevent U.S. technology from fueling Russia’s aggression in Ukraine.

### 2. Key Findings

- a. The semiconductor manufacturing industry had not increased its compliance efforts effectively or fast enough to combat Russian diversion efforts.

<sup>10</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia’s War in Ukraine: Examining Semiconductor Manufacturers’ Compliance with Export Controls*, (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/09.10.2024-Majority-Staff-Report-The-U.S.-Technology-Fueling-Russias-War-in-Ukraine.pdf>.



b. Exports from AMD, Analog Devices, Intel, and Texas Instruments to multiple countries with entities identified as assisting in Russian diversion efforts were significantly elevated in 2023 compared to exports prior to Russia's war in Ukraine.

c. Since the start of 2024, AMD, Analog Devices, Intel, and Texas Instruments had each identified and blocked sales to entities potentially involved in Russian diversion. However, these sales could have been identified and blocked earlier and faster with more proactive compliance regimes.

d. Export controls compliance policies at AMD, Analog Devices, Intel, and Texas Instruments failed to meet best practices and recommendations from the Department of Commerce and non-governmental organizations. All except for AMD had failed to respond timely to external tracing efforts, and each lacked sufficient internal auditing and distributor auditing related to export controls compliance.

### 3. Recommendations

a. Semiconductor manufacturers should respond to external tracing efforts thoroughly and in a timely manner.

b. Semiconductor manufacturers should annually audit their entire export controls compliance programs, and audit targeted processes more frequently-particularly when problems arise or regulations change.

c. Semiconductor manufacturers should implement policies to provide increased visibility into export controls compliance in their distribution chain, including yearly auditing of all of their distributors' export controls compliance.

d. Semiconductor manufacturers should routinely submit export control compliance plans for review and comment by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS).

### *H. Majority Staff Memorandum: New Details of Boeing's Safety Failures and Pressure to Prioritize Profits. September 24, 2024.*

#### 1. Summary

On September 24, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff memorandum presenting new information based on documents the Subcommittee obtained from the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing during its investigation into safety practices at Boeing. The memorandum was issued in advance of the Subcommittee's September 25, 2024, hearing with FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker, the third hearing in the Subcommittee's inquiry into Boeing's manufacturing practices.<sup>11</sup>

#### 2. Key Findings

a. Boeing personnel continued to feel pressure to prioritize speed of production over quality.

b. Boeing continued to struggle to ensure its employees are adequately trained and appropriately resourced for their work.

<sup>11</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, Memorandum: New Details of Boeing's Safety Failures and Pressure to Prioritize Profits, (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.9.25-PSI-Hearing-FAA-Boeing-Oversight-Majority-Staff-Background-Memo-2.pdf>.

c. Boeing continued to fail to ensure that nonconforming parts are appropriately documented, stored, and dispositioned so that they are not installed on aircraft.

d. Boeing's quality inspection procedures and the FAA's review of those procedures raised questions about the qualifications and independence of individuals performing inspections.

i. Boeing personnel were allowed to inspect the quality of their own work.

ii. The FAA acknowledged to the Subcommittee that manufacturing personnel inspecting the quality of their own work appeared to pose an inherent conflict of interest.

*I. Interim Joint Report: Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt. September 25, 2024.*

1. Summary

At the direction of U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Rand Paul, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee ("HSGAC") and Senators Richard Blumenthal and Ron Johnson, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (the Subcommittee), Majority and Minority Committee staff opened a bipartisan investigation of planning and security failures that contributed to the attempted assassination of then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024, during which one audience member was killed and two others were critically injured.

The 133-page interim report detailed the information the Committee and Subcommittee's preliminary findings.<sup>12</sup> The committees found that USSS failures in planning, communications, security, and allocation of resources for the July 13, 2024 Butler rally were foreseeable, preventable, and directly related to the events resulting in the assassination attempt that day. The committees also found that siloed communications and coordination problems between federal, state, and local law enforcement officials remained unaddressed and were a contributing factor to the failures at the July 13 Butler rally.

2. Key Findings

a. USSS personnel were notified of a suspicious person with a rangefinder around the AGR building approximately 27 minutes before the shooting.

b. USSS was notified about an individual on the AGR roof approximately two minutes before the shooter fired from the AGR roof.

c. Shortly before shots were fired, a USSS counter sniper saw local law enforcement running toward the AGR building with their guns drawn, but he did not alert former President Trump's protective detail to remove him from the stage.

<sup>12</sup> Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, *Interim Joint Report: Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt*, (Sept. 25, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/USSS-HSGAC-Interim-Report.pdf>.

d. USSS counter snipers—including the one who shot and killed the shooter—were sent to the rally in response to “credible intelligence” of a threat.

e. USSS Advance Agents for the July 13 rally denied individual responsibility for planning or security failures, deflected blame, and could not identify who had final decision authority for the rally.

f. Local law enforcement raised concern about the security coverage of the AGR building.

g. USSS advance personnel identified multiple line-of-sight concerns at the Butler Farm Show grounds, including the AGR building.

h. There were two separate communications centers at the July 13 rally—one run by USSS and one by local law enforcement.

i. The shooter was in the USSS counter sniper’s sights for “mere seconds” before he fired at the shooter.

j. USSS Advance Agents requested additional resources that would have been helpful, but those assets were denied.

k. USSS’ C-UAS system experienced technical problems and was inoperable until 4:33 pm, after the shooter flew a drone near the rally site.

l. Several USSS officials reported experiencing technical problems with their radios at the rally and told the committees such problems are common for USSS.

### 3. Recommendations

a. Planning and Coordination: Congress should require USSS to identify defined roles and responsibilities for USSS personnel responsible for advance planning of any protective event.

i. For all protective events, USSS should improve coordination and specify roles and responsibilities between and among federal, state, and local law enforcement partners.

ii. USSS policies and protocols should require advance planning leads to request and review state and local operational plans in advance of any protective event to ensure a shared understanding of security responsibilities and vulnerabilities as well as other critical planning and security components.

b. Responsibility: In advance of each protective event, USSS should designate a single individual responsible for approving all plans, including the responsibility for approving security perimeters.

c. Communications: DHS and USSS should ensure communications plans between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and first responders are properly executed and should ensure records retention capabilities.

i. Congress should require that USSS record its radio transmissions at all protective events.

ii. Congress should require DHS and USSS to evaluate the steps it needs to take to ensure communications plans with state and local partners are fully executed when conducting law enforcement and/or first response activities at a given location. Congress should require that DHS and USSS report to Congress any steps taken to remedy past failures to execute

communications plans and to ensure compliance with those plans in the future.

d. Intelligence: USSS should consider sending additional assets, including counter snipers, to all future outdoor protective events as it evaluates intelligence and threats against protectees. USSS should also ensure that the appropriate agents working protective events are informed of relevant intelligence and threats against protectees.

e. Resources: Congress should evaluate USSS budget and resources. Security requirements should be determined depending on various threat levels, ranging from less severe threat environments to the highest level of security at National Special Security Events.

i. Congress should require that USSS allocate assets and resources based on the threat level, not the position or title of the protectee.

*J. Refusal of Recovery: How Medicare Advantage Companies Have Intentionally Denied Patients Access to Post-Acute Care.* October 16, 2024.

#### 1. Summary

On October 16, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff report concluding an inquiry initiated in May 2023 into delays and denials of care in the Medicare Advantage program.<sup>13</sup> PSI's inquiry focused on three of the largest Medicare Advantage insurers: UnitedHealthcare, Humana, and CVS, which together covered nearly 60 percent of all Medicare Advantage enrollees. The report presented new findings based on the more than 280,000 pages of documents collected by the Subcommittee and revealed how Medicare Advantage insurers intentionally used prior authorization to boost profits by targeting costly yet critical stays in post-acute care facilities.

#### 2. Key Findings

a. UnitedHealthcare, Humana, and CVS used prior authorization to target costly but critical post-acute care.

b. UnitedHealthcare's denial rate for prior authorization requests for post-acute care significantly increased at the same time the company was launching initiatives to automate the process.

i. A UnitedHealthcare committee approved an "auto authorization model" after learning that it resulted in faster review times and increased denials.

ii. Prior authorization denials for skilled nursing facilities accelerated significantly once naviHealth began managing post-acute care for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.

iii. UnitedHealthcare sought to use machine learning to "flag" cases that were likely to be appealed.

c. CVS knew prior authorization denials generated huge savings and subjected more and more post-acute care requests to the process.

<sup>13</sup>Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *Refusal of Recovery: How Medicare Advantage Companies Have Intentionally Denied Patients Access to Post-Acute Care*, (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.10.17-PSI-Majority-Staff-Report-on-Medicare-Advantage.pdf>.

- i. Savings from prior authorization denials vastly exceeded savings from automated approvals.
- ii. CVS developed a data-driven strategy of focusing on prior authorization requests with “a significant probability to be denied”.
- iii. CVS data modeling revealed how ‘Mistake’ approvals of post-acute care requests threatened profitability.
- iv. CVS began use artificial intelligence to reduce spending at post-acute facilities amid pressure to reduce costs in its Medicare Advantage division.
- d. Humana’s denial rate at long-term acute care hospitals jumped significantly after prior authorization training sessions emphasized denials.
  - i. Humana crafted templates to respond to post-acute prior authorization requests that enabled them to “uphold a denial on appeal”.
  - ii. Humana training sessions for requests for long-term acute care hospitals emphasized cost and provided strategies for handling denials.
  - iii. Humana staff had concerns about suggesting hospice as an alternative to long-term acute care hospitals.
  - iv. Internal Humana policies appear to give naviHealth and other contractors greater latitude to exclude humans from decision making.

### 3. Recommendations

- a. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should begin collecting prior authorization information broken down by service category.
- b. CMS should conduct targeted audits if prior authorization data reveal notable increases in adverse determination rates.
- c. CMS should expand regulations for utilization management committees to prevent predictive technologies from unduly influencing human reviewers.

*K. The Sky’s the Limit: The Rise of Junk Fees in American Air Travel.* November 25, 2024.

#### 1. Summary

On November 25, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff report regarding airline ancillary fees, commonly referred to as “junk fees.”<sup>14</sup> This report followed the subcommittee’s inquiry examining ancillary fees in the airline industry, launched in November 2023, targeting three major U.S. airlines—American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines—as well as two “ultra-low-cost” carriers, Frontier Airlines and Spirit Airlines, both of which helped pioneer many of the fee structures now used throughout the industry.

<sup>14</sup> Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *The Sky’s the Limit: The Rise of Junk Fees in American Air Travel*, (Nov. 25, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.11.25-Majority-Staff-Report-The-Sky-s-the-Limit-The-Rise-of-Junk-Fees-in-American-Travel-1.pdf>.

The Subcommittee's report, which was based on internal documents obtained from the airlines, revealed strategies to grow revenue from ancillary fees. U.S. airlines had increasingly charged separately for goods and services that were once included in the price of a ticket. This strategy, known as "unbundling," had spread to almost every airline in the industry. The Subcommittee's report detailed how airlines had generated billions of dollars in revenue from ancillary fees while travelers confronted more and increasingly complex fees and fewer options for avoiding them, obscuring the total cost of travel and obstructing comparison shopping. The report revealed that some airlines used consumer data to help set the price of certain ancillary fees, resulting in different people attempting to book the exact same flight at the exact same time being charged different amounts.

## 2. Key Findings

a. The five airlines are making more money from seat fees than ever before: American, Delta, United, Frontier, and Spirit generated \$12.4 billion in seat fee revenue between 2018 and 2023.

i. For American, Delta, United, Frontier, and Spirit, seat fees made up a higher share of total revenue in 2023 than in 2018.

ii. American, United, Frontier, and Spirit did not show customers the cost of seat selection fees until they provided personal information.

b. The price of ancillary fees at American, Delta, United, Frontier, and Spirit was not tied to each airline's cost of providing a service.

i. American, Delta, Frontier, and Spirit said they had not considered varying the price of existing fees based on the airfare paid or the cost of providing a service.

ii. Ancillary fees sometimes added up to more than the price of the fare itself.

c. The five airlines increasingly relied on algorithms to set the price of ancillary fees and were investing in pricing strategies based on customer data.

d. In 2022 and 2023, Spirit and Frontier paid more than \$26 million to incentivize gate agents and others to collect bag and other fees.

i. Frontier paid carry-on bag commissions for 18 months before changing the "goal of the program" to include limiting passenger complaints.

ii. Incentive payments were part of Frontier's strategy for constant growth of ancillary revenue.

iii. Frontier and Spirit denied that their incentive policies are being abused.

e. The share of customer payments airlines subject to taxation varied enormously.

## 3. Recommendations

a. Congress should require airlines to provide more granular fee data to the Department of Transportation and strengthen fee disclosure requirements.

b. The Department of Transportation should investigate potential abuses in the use of incentive-based collection of ancillary fees, prohibit unfair and deceptive practices, and assess civil penalties if appropriate.

c. The Treasury Department should examine whether current airline ancillary fee practices comply with rules about applying the transportation tax.

*L. The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia's War in Ukraine: Examining the Bureau of Industry and Security's Enforcement of Semiconductor Export Controls.* December 18, 2024.

### 1. Summary

On December 18, 2024, the Subcommittee released a majority staff report, as a part of its inquiry into the continued presence of U.S. manufactured semiconductors in Russian weapons recovered in Ukraine. This report considered the role of government enforcement in the effectiveness of U.S. export controls, finding that the efforts of the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), the entity primarily responsible for export control enforcement, were inadequate.<sup>15</sup> The report found that while BIS had been asked to fulfill a key national security function, it was forced to do so with insufficient funding and dated technology. The report also found that BIS had largely left the decision of how to comply with the law to semiconductor companies themselves, imposing no requirements for specific components an export control program must contain and mandating no meaningful outside review of semiconductor companies' export control programs. Even when violations were present, BIS had not charged companies with sufficiently serious violations or imposed fines sufficiently robust to compel better compliance.

### 2. Key Findings

a. Congress has not provided BIS with adequate funding to fulfill its mission.

i. BIS's budget limited its ability to conduct the number of international end-use checks needed to catch Russian and Chinese diversion.

ii. BIS's limited budget inhibited its ability to update its woefully outdated information technology systems.

b. BIS failed to fully use its existing authority to enforce export controls.

i. BIS has not required that semiconductor companies' export control programs contain any specific components, or that companies' export control programs undergo outside review.

ii. BIS has not adequately charged companies for "knowing" violations of the export acquisition regulations.

iii. BIS acknowledged the need for larger fines for violations of the export acquisition regulations but has not imposed them.

<sup>15</sup>Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff, *The U.S. Technology Fueling Russia's War in Ukraine: Examining the Bureau of Industry and Security's Enforcement of Semiconductor Export Controls*, (Dec. 18, 2024), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/The-U.S.-Technology-Fueling-Russias-War-in-Ukraine-Examining-BISs-Enforcement-of-Semiconductor-Export-Controls.pdf>.

### 3. Recommendations

- a. Congress should provide BIS with adequate funding to manage its increased workload and responsibilities.
- b. BIS should utilize its robust authority to require semiconductor manufacturers to do more to prevent their products from ending up in the wrong hands, including:
  - i. BIS should accelerate plans to impose higher fines on companies who violate export controls.
  - ii. BIS should charge companies with “knowing” violations when they fail to sufficiently investigate red flags or other strong indicia of potential diversion and violations occur.
  - iii. BIS should rely less on voluntary compliance from semiconductor companies and instead mandate specific components an export control compliance program must contain.
  - iv. BIS should require periodic, routine reviews of semiconductor companies’ export control plans by outside entities.

*M. Interim Report: Coast Guard Efforts to Conceal the Operation Fouled Anchor Investigation from Congress and the Public.* December 20, 2024.

#### 1. Summary

On December 20, 2024, the Subcommittee released a bipartisan interim staff report that presented initial findings uncovered over the course of the Subcommittee’s fifteen-month inquiry into the mishandling of sexual assault and sexual harassment cases at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as the Coast Guard’s failure to notify Congress about the conclusion of Operation Fouled Anchor, an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct at the United States Coast Guard Academy from the early 1990s through 2006.<sup>16</sup> As a part of this inquiry, the Subcommittee reviewed more than 18,000 pages of documents and interviewed fifteen former Coast Guard personnel who were in key roles during the Operation Fouled Anchor investigation. Since launching its inquiry, PSI also received outreach from more than 80 whistleblowers, the majority of whom are survivors of sexual assault or sexual harassment at the Academy and in the Coast Guard. The Subcommittee’s report found that the Coast Guard decided in the fall of 2018 not to disclose Operation Fouled Anchor to Congress or the public. Additionally, the report exposed efforts by the Coast Guard to remove references to Operation Fouled Anchor from productions to Congress while the investigation was ongoing.

#### 2. Key Findings

- a. Senior Coast Guard officials agreed in the fall of 2018 not to disclose Operation Fouled Anchor to Congress or the public.
  - i. Preparation for the conclusion of Operation Fouled Anchor began in 2018.

<sup>16</sup>Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, *Interim Report: Coast Guard Efforts to Conceal the Operation Fouled Anchor Investigation from Congress and the Public*, (Dec. 20, 2024), [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.12.20\\_Coast-Guard-OFA-Interim-Report\\_final.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024.12.20_Coast-Guard-OFA-Interim-Report_final.pdf).



ii. As Coast Guard officials neared a decision on disclosure, Coast Guard personnel sought to understand what, if anything, Congress already knew about Operation Fouled Anchor.

iii. The Commandant of the Coast Guard made the decision not to disclose Operation Fouled Anchor.

b. A February 2019 email suggests that the Coast Guard took affirmative steps to remove references to Operation Fouled Anchor from productions to Congress while the investigation was ongoing.

## V. GAO REPORTS

During the 118th Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued 12 reports at the request of the Subcommittee. Reports are listed here by title, GAO number, and release date.

2020 Census: A More Complete Lessons Learned Process for Cost and Schedule Would Help the Next Decennial. GAO-23-105819. March 2, 2024.

Government Performance Management: Actions Needed to Improve Transparency of Cross-Agency Priority Goals. GAO-23-106354. April 4, 2023.

Federal Research: NIH Could Take Additional Actions to Manage Risks Involving Foreign Subrecipients. GAO-23-106119. June 14, 2023.

U.S. Assistance to Mexico: State Department Should Take Steps to Assess Overall Progress. GAO-23-103795. September 12, 2023.

Biometric Identity System: DHS Needs to Address Significant Shortcomings in Program Management and Privacy. GAO-23-105959. September 12, 2023.

Puerto Rico Disasters: Progress Made, but the Recovery Continues to Face Challenges. GAO-24-105557. February 13, 2024.

2020 Census: The Bureau Adapted Approaches for Addressing Unexpected Results and Developing Annual Population Estimates. GAO-24-106594. April 1, 2024.

DHS Hiring: Additional Actions Needed to Enhance Vetting Processes Across the Department. GAO-24-106153. June 11, 2024.

Persistent Chemicals: Additional EPA Actions Could Help Public Water Systems Address PFAS In Drinking Water. GAO-24-106523. September 24, 2024.

Information Technology: Government-Wide Guidance on Handling Data Could Improve Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Protections. GAO-25-106057. November 19, 2024.

2020 Census: Coverage Errors and Challenges Inform 2030 Plans. GAO-25-107160. November 21, 2024.

Immigration Courts: Actions Needed to Track and Report Non-citizens' Hearing Appearances. GAO-25-106867. December 19, 2024.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

CHAIRMAN: MAGGIE HASSAN (D–NH)

RANKING MEMBER: MITT ROMNEY (R–UT)

The following is the Activity Report of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight for the 118th Congress.

### I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### A. SUBCOMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight focuses on preventing waste, fraud, and abuse related to federal spending; identifying and examining emerging national and economic security threats; examining federal preparedness to respond and address emerging threats including terrorism, disruptive technologies, misinformation and disinformation, climate change, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive attacks; conducting oversight of the organization and management of United States nuclear export policy; improving coordination and addressing conflicts between federal departments and agencies, state, local, territorial, tribal governments, and private sector entities for emerging threat preparedness and prevention; conducting oversight of the protection of civil rights and civil liberties by the Department of Homeland Security; and modernizing federal information technology.

#### B. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senator Margaret Wood Hassan of New Hampshire chaired the Subcommittee from its founding in 2021 through 2024.

#### C. 117TH CONGRESS

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee was founded and Senator Margaret Wood Hassan, Democrat of New Hampshire, became its Chair. Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, became Ranking Minority Member. Under Senator Hassan's Leadership, the Subcommittee held eight hearings.

#### D. 118TH CONGRESS

In the 118th Congress, Senator Hassan continued as Chair, and Senator Mitt Romney, Republican of Utah, became Ranking Minority Member when Senator Paul was elevated to Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee. Under Chair Hassan's leadership, the Subcommittee held nine hearings on a wide range of issues, including lessons learned after the 10th anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombing, modernizing government IT infrastructure, reducing duplication of Executive Branch functions, cyberattacks on soft targets, COVID-era federal spending, and export control enforcement.

## II. SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

### A. *Lessons Learned: 10 Years Since the Boston Marathon Bombings.* April 26, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–106.

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the Subcommittee held a hearing examining lessons learned in the decade since the Boston Marathon terrorist attack. The hearing featured a panel of three witnesses with expertise in emergency preparedness and response, law enforcement, intelligence and information sharing, and emerging threats. Topics examined in this hearing included changes in homeland security efforts to protect soft targets and special events; remaining gaps in security; emerging threats to mass gatherings and special events, and steps that federal, state, local, and tribal governments can take to prepare for these emerging threats. Witnesses additionally discussed the importance of relationships, planning, and exercising; the importance of mental health resources for survivors and first responders; current deficiencies in information sharing practices; and challenges in the Special Event Assessment Rating process.

Witnesses: The Honorable Richard A. Serino, Distinguished Senior Fellow, National Preparedness Leadership Initiative, Harvard University; Kerry Sleeper, Special Advisor, Secure Community Network; and Edward F. Davis III, Former Commissioner, Boston Police Department.

### B. *Securing the Nation: Modernizing DHS's Mission-Critical Legacy IT Systems.* May 31, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–152.

This hearing explored the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) reliance on legacy information technology (IT) systems to carry out its mission to secure the nation. Importantly, witnesses discussed what would happen if critical systems fail, and what DHS needs to do to mitigate the risks posed by these aging systems. In particular, the hearing discussed DHS's difficulties acquiring, developing, and managing its IT investments. To address challenges in modernizing systems, both the DHS Inspector General and Government Accountability Office recommend improving project management practices, strengthening cybersecurity measures, increasing transparency and accountability, and enhancing the agency's IT workforce. DHS testified that it is in the process of updating its Information Technology Strategic Plan for FY 2024–2028. The Transportation Security Administration highlighted that it completed the transfer of its legacy performance data system to an updated platform in early 2023.

Witnesses: Eric Hysen, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Charles R. Armstrong, Chief Information Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Yemi Oshinnaiye, Chief Information Officer, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and Kevin Walsh, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*C. Examining the Findings and Recommendations of GAO's 2023 Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Financial Benefits.* June 14, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–131.

The Subcommittee held its annual hearing regarding the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2023 report on overlap and duplication of government programs titled "Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Billions of Dollars in Financial Benefits." Since 2011, GAO has annually compiled a report that identifies areas of duplication, overlap, and fragmentation in federal operations, as well as identifies opportunities to achieve financial benefits through better management. The hearing focused on specific findings in this year's report. In addition, the Subcommittee discussed ways for Congress to provide commonsense solutions to the issues raised by GAO to ensure that Congress is doing its part to mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Witnesses: The Honorable Eugene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*D. Improving Federal Collaboration to Protect Our K–12 Schools from Cyberattacks.* August 21, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–161. Field Hearing in Goffstown, New Hampshire.

On Monday, August 21, 2023, the Subcommittee held a roundtable titled "Improving Federal Collaboration to Protect Our K–12 Schools from Cyberattacks" at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's College in Goffstown, New Hampshire. The roundtable featured a panel of six participants from different levels of government. The panelists discussed the coordination and collaboration efforts of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-government entities to improve the cybersecurity of K–12 schools. Subtopics included the Department of Education's Government Coordination Council for K–12 cybersecurity, the Department of Homeland Security's state and local cybersecurity grant program, impacts of cyberattacks on K–12 schools, the U.S. Secret Service's National Computer Forensics Institute, and minimum data security standards.

Participants: Daniel King, Chief of Cybersecurity, Region 1 (New England), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Richard Rossi, Cybersecurity Advisor—New Hampshire, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Timothy Benitez, Resident Agent in Charge, Manchester, NH, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Denis Goulet, Commissioner and Chief Information Officer, State of New Hampshire Department of Information Technology; Kenneth Weeks, Chief Information Security Officer, State of New Hampshire Department of Information Technology; and Pamela McLeod, Chair, Alton School Board.

*E. Advanced Technology: Examining Threats to National Security.* September 19, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–136.

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, the Subcommittee held a hearing examining how advanced technologies—such as artificial intel-

ligence (AI), quantum computing, and bioengineering—may pose risks to national security and public safety. The hearing featured a panel of three witnesses with expertise in advanced technologies, national security, and research and development. Topics examined in this hearing included the need for stronger AI safeguards, public safety risks from AI jailbreaks, and threats posed by other advanced technology, such as drone-based threats and quantum technology. Witnesses additionally discussed the importance of developing federal capacity to evaluate and respond to AI risks, establishing clear authorities for advanced technology regulations, investing in research into AI, and the risks driven by the proliferation of low-cost technologies.

Witnesses: Gregory C. Allen, Director, Wadhvani Center for AI and Advanced Technologies; Jeff Alstott, Ph.D., Senior Information Scientist, RAND Corporation; and Dewey Murdick, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Security and Emerging Technology.

*F. Examining Federal COVID-Era Spending and Preventing Future Fraud.* November 14, 2023. S. Hrg. 118–242.

This hearing brought together key members of the oversight community to explore fraud in COVID pandemic relief programs, what agencies are doing to hold fraudsters accountable, and how Congress and agencies can prevent fraud in future relief efforts. The witnesses testified on what Congress and agencies could have done differently to prevent waste, fraud, and improper payments through better data-sharing between agencies and internal financial controls. The witnesses also talked about threats posed by international criminal organizations infiltrating pandemic relief programs. Finally, the witnesses provided several lessons-learned and suggestions for legislation that can help prevent future waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of emergency relief funding.

Witnesses: The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice; The Honorable Hannibal “Mike” Ware, Inspector General, U.S. Small Business Administration; The Honorable Brian D. Miller, Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, U.S. Department of the Treasury; and Rebecca Shea, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

*G. Strengthening International Cooperation to Stop the Flow of Fentanyl into the United States.* March 20, 2024. S. Hrg. 118–264.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, the Subcommittee held a hearing examining steps that U.S. officials can take to curb the flow of fentanyl, precursor chemicals used to make fentanyl, and other synthetic narcotics into the United States. The hearing featured a panel of three non-governmental witnesses with expertise in counternarcotics, diplomacy, international cooperation, and law enforcement. Topics examined in this hearing steps the U.S. can take to foster policy changes in China and Mexico, as well as threats posed by new synthetic drugs and transnational criminal organizations. Witnesses additionally discussed the importance of being prepared to respond to new and evolving risks, using anti-money laundering

measures to halt criminal activity, considering economic penalties for non-cooperative states, and the need for China to implement strong counter-narcotics and smuggling policies, including know-your-customer laws.

Witnesses: Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown, Director, Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors, Brookings Institute; Ms. Celina B. Realuyo, Professor, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, National Defense University; and Mr. Christopher Urben, Managing Partner, Nardello & Co.

*H. Improving Export Controls Enforcement.* April 10, 2024. S. Hrg. 118–XX.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, the Subcommittee held a hearing examining current law enforcement efforts to enforce export controls, including interagency coordination efforts. The hearing featured a panel of three government witnesses representing agencies with diverse roles and responsibilities for export control enforcement, as well as expertise in counternarcotics, diplomacy, international cooperation, and law enforcement. The hearing examined what Congress can do to enhance enforcement efforts, as well as what resources and authorities are needed to prevent the acquisition of advanced dual-use technologies by adversarial nations. Witnesses additionally discussed the importance of law enforcement coordination domestically and abroad to stay ahead of efforts by adversaries to violate export controls and gain access to restricted U.S. technologies.

Witnesses: Ms. Eun Young Choi, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Mr. Kevin J. Kurland, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, Bureau on Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce; and Mr. James R. Mancuso, Assistant Director, Global Trade and Investigations Division, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

*I. Examining the Findings and Recommendations of GAO’s 2024 Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Financial Benefits.* May 15, 2024. S. Hrg. 118–341.

The Subcommittee held its annual hearing regarding the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) 2024 report on overlap and duplication of government programs, titled “Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Billions of Dollars in Financial Benefits.” Since 2011, GAO has annually compiled a report that identifies areas of inefficiency in federal operations, and recommends opportunities to achieve financial benefits through better management. The hearing focused on specific findings in this year’s report. In addition, the Subcommittee discussed ways for Congress to provide commonsense solutions to the issues raised by GAO to ensure that Congress is doing its part to mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Witnesses: The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

## III. GAO REPORTS

During the 118th Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued 13 reports at the request of the Subcommittee. Reports are listed here by title, GAO number, and release date.

Veterans Benefits: VA Could Enhance Outreach for Its Solid Start Program by Increasing Collaboration with Veterans Organizations. GAO-23-105699. January 5, 2023.

U.S. Postal Service: Few Differences in On-Time Performance Between Rural and Urban Areas. GAO-23-105169. January 12, 2023.

Department of Education: Additional Data Collection Would Help Assess the Performance of a Program Supporting College Students with Disabilities. GAO-23-105551. February 15, 2023.

Information Technology: DHS Needs to Continue Addressing Critical Legacy Systems. GAO-23-106853. May 31, 2023.

Government Efficiency and Effectiveness: Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Billions of Dollars in Financial Benefits. GAO-23-106864. June 14, 2023.

Cybersecurity Workforce: National Initiative Needs to Better Assess Its Performance. GAO-23-105945. July 27, 2023.

COVID-19: Insights and Actions for Fraud Prevention. GAO-24-107157. November 14, 2023.

401(K) Plans: Additional Federal Actions Would Help Participants Track and Consolidate Their Retirement Savings. GAO-24-103577. January 18, 2024.

Small Business Administration: Targeted Outreach about Disaster Assistance Could Benefit Rural Communities. GAO-24-106755. February 22, 2024.

VA Health Care: Organization of the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. GAO-24-106023. February 29, 2024.

Government Efficiency and Effectiveness: Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Billions of Dollars in Financial Benefits. GAO-24-107554. May 15, 2024.

Higher Education: Education Could Improve Information on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. GAO-24-105614. May 29, 2024.

Child Care Accessibility: Agencies Can Further Coordinate to Better Serve Families with Disabilities. GAO-24-106843. September 12, 2024.

Supplemental Material for GAO-24-106843: Strengthening Federal Government Coordination to Help Families with Disabilities Access Child Care. GAO-24-107735. September 12, 2024.

Future of Cybersecurity: Leadership Needed to Fully Define Quantum Threat Mitigation Strategy. GAO-25-107703. November 21, 2024.

Export Controls: Commerce Implemented Advanced Semiconductor Rules and Took Steps to Address Compliance Challenges. GAO-25-107386. December 2, 2024.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

CHAIRMAN: KYRSTEN SINEMA (I-AZ)

RANKING MEMBER: JAMES LANKFORD (R-OK)

The following is the Activity Report of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management for the 118th Congress.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A. JURISDICTION

The Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management is charged with assessing the management of operations of the nation's border; conducting oversight of management and efficiency of government agencies and operations; and reviewing federal rulemaking contracting and procurement policies among other responsibilities.

B. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona Chaired the Subcommittee from its founding in 2021 through 2024.

C. 117TH CONGRESS

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee was founded and Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Democrat of Arizona, became its Chair. Senator James Lankford, Republican of Oklahoma, became Ranking Minority Member. During the Congress, Senator Sinema changed her party designation to Independent. Under their Leadership, the Subcommittee held six hearings on topics ranging from perspectives on and improvements to be made at the Southwestern Border, critical infrastructure needs at US Border points of entry, Executive Branch human resources modernization, and the effects of extreme heat on the US Postal Service. In her capacity as Chair, Senator Sinema, introduced seven pieces of legislation which were referred to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

D. 118TH CONGRESS

In the 118th Congress, Senators Sinema and Lankford continued their respective tenures as Chair and Ranking Minority Member. The leadership of Senators Sinema and Lankford was instrumental in forging bipartisan consensus on a number of issues of national importance. Notably, in reaching a historic bipartisan US Border Security Agreement, in conjunction with Senator Chris Murphy, Democrat of Connecticut, then- Chair of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Homeland Security. The Agreement ultimately did not pass the Senate, but as with many of the Chair's other initiatives, served as a major driver of policy discussion in the Senate for the remainder of the Congress. The Subcommittee also held two hearings on the effects of migration on Southern Bor-



der Communities and on the Department of Homeland Security's responsibilities after the end of COVID-19 era Title 42 authority. Senator Sinema retired from the Senate at the conclusion of the 118th Congress.

## II. SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

### A. *Examining the Effects of Increased Migration on Communities along the Southern Border*. April 26, 2023. (S. Hrg. 118-244)

Immigration and border policies fall squarely under the purview of the federal government. However, many of the impacts associated with these policies are borne by border communities. When migration increases, these localities must balance the additional burden of ensuring safety and security, while continuing to provide the regular services expected by their citizens.

While Congress has appropriated funding to help cover costs incurred by local governments and non-profits to provide shelter, food, and transportation for migrants, there are flaws with the allocation of these resources. This funding is not holistic, and many costs are not eligible for reimbursement-including property damage, local emergency response, and certain medical expenses. Additionally, there are many non-monetary effects on these local communities, including local government employees that are shifted away from providing services for residents. This hearing will evaluate all of these effects on local communities along the Southern Border.

Witnesses: The Honorable Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, City of Yuma; The Honorable Clea McCaa II, Mayor, City of Sierra Vista; Francisco Garcia, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer, Pima County; Kevin Hearod, Chief, McAlester Police Department.

### B. *After Apprehension: Tracing DHS Responsibilities after Title 42*. September 6, 2023. (S. Hearing 118-XXX)

The Department of Homeland Security's process for migrants after they have been apprehended at the Southwest border is complex, and the operational policies change frequently. Migrants are subject to different pathways and procedures depending on their demographics, including age, nationality, and family unit status. The relevant Department of Homeland Security components must work together to vet migrants for any criminal ties and determine next steps, which can include a credible fear screening, transfer to ICE custody, enrollment in an alternatives to detention program, and providing a notice to appear.

These processes have seen significant change after the Title 42 public health order, ended on May 11, 2023. In order to conduct effective oversight, Congress must understand how this process works on-the-ground for the relevant agencies. This hearing examined this process and identify systemic inefficiencies and ways to improve this process to help keep Americans safe and secure while treating migrants fairly and humanely.

Witnesses: David S. BeMiller, Chief, Law Enforcement Operations Directorate, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border

Protection; Matthew Davies, Executive Director, Admissibility and Passenger Programs, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Daniel A. Bible, Deputy Executive Associate Director, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Andrew Davidson, Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

### III. LEGISLATION

The Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management plays an important role in bringing issues to the attention of Congress and the public. Its work frequently contributes to the development of legislative initiatives. During the 118th Congress, Chair Sinema and Ranking Member Lankford together introduced the following legislative proposals in their capacity as Senators:

- S. 59—the Chance to Compete Act of 2024 (Pub. L. 118–188)
- S. 61—the Combating Cartels on Social Media Act
- S. 108—the Guidance Clarity Act
- S. 111—the Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act (Pub. L. 118–9)
- S. 135—the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act
- S. 243—A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities
- S. 349—the Military Spouse Employment Act (as amendment to Pub. L. 118–31)
- S. 1443—the Protecting the Border from Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act
- S. 1444—the Border Patrol Enhancement Act (as amendment to Pub. L. 118–31)
- S. 3015—the Telework Reform Act
- S. 4263—the Early Participation in Regulations Act
- S. 4264—the SMART Act of 2024
- S. 4676—the Shadow Wolves Improvement Act
- S. 5309—the SAFE Contracting Act

### IV. GAO REPORTS

During the 118th Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued 10 reports at the request of the Subcommittee. Reports are listed here by title, GAO number, and release date.

Government Performance Management: Actions Needed to Improve Transparency of Cross-Agency Priority Goals. GAO–23–106354. April 4, 2023.

VA Health Care: Office of Rural Health Would Benefit from Improved Communication and Developing Performance Goals. GAO–23–105855. May 4, 2023.

Cybersecurity Workforce: National Initiative Needs to Better Assess Its Performance. GAO–23–105945. July 27, 2023.

Federal Contracting: Agencies Can Better Monitor E-Verify Compliance. GAO–24–106219. October 3, 2023.

Federal Reserve Lending Programs: Status of Monitoring and Main Street Lending Program. GAO–24–106482. December 22, 2023.

Aviation Security: Transportation Security Administration Could Further Improve Officer Engagement. GAO-24-106052. February 27, 2024.

Federal Real Property: More Consistent Monitoring of Asbestos Could Improve Oversight. GAO-24-106324. March 4, 2024.

Southwest Border: CBP Could Take Additional Steps to Strengthen Its Response to Incidents Involving Its Personnel. GAO-24-106148. May 13, 2024.

Federal Real Property: Actions Needed to Better Assess Office Sharing Pilot's Broader Applicability. GAO-24-106919. September 11, 2024.

Federal Telework: Selected Agencies Need to Evaluate the Potential Effects on Agency Performance. GAO-25-106316. November 22, 2024.

