

For her many years of work in support of the LGBT community, Jeanne was honored as the first Grand Marshal of the Queens Pride Parade, which began in 1993, the year after Morty's death. The parade runs through the heart of my district in Queens and passes a reviewing stand situated directly in front of the post office we are renaming today in Jackson Heights. In fact, the street corner next to this post office was itself renamed for someone we lost to a senseless act of hate. Julio Rivera, a young man, was killed in 1990 at the age of 29, targeted because he, himself, was gay.

Jackson Heights is a thriving neighborhood with a growing LGBT community, and our community will be honored to have our local post office bear the names of Jeanne and Jules Manford. These symbols remind us of how far we have come.

After Jules Manford passed away, Jeanne, having lost her husband and son, eventually went to live with her daughter, Suzanne, in California.

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In January of 2013, just a few months before the Supreme Court's landmark decision overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, Jeanne passed away at the age of 92. That same year, Jeanne was honored posthumously with the Presidential Citizens Medal for her efforts.

It is difficult to imagine how we could have achieved so much progress toward attaining more equal rights for LGBT Americans without the work of Jeanne and Jules Manford more than 40 years ago.

Though the LGBT community itself had already begun to organize and demand action, it was the Manfords' work to bring families and allies into the fold that helped push these issues to the fore.

Many attribute the shift in public opinion on the issue of marriage equality to the simple fact that gay and lesbian people are able to be more open about who they are. As a result, more and more straight Americans know someone who is gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender and want their friends and family to be treated equally.

This is thanks, in no small part, to the supportive work of the PFLAG and its chapters throughout the years, and to the movement by parents and families who proudly choose to love their children for who they are. So as we celebrate Pride Month, I am glad we have this opportunity to reflect upon and honor those who helped get us to where we are today.

As we mourn in the wake of the tragic shooting at the Pulse LGBT nightclub in Orlando last week, I hope we all can emulate the way Jeanne and Jules Manford responded to their son's beating. The Manfords recognized that violent acts of hate don't show strength. Far from it. They show weakness in the soul of the offender.

Instead of recoiling in fear, the Manfords reacted with a sign of love, support, and solidarity. I have been heartened to see millions of Americans do the same over this past week. It has shown our strength as a society and as a nation in spite of an attack meant to shake us.

So I am particularly glad that we are able to consider this legislation today to honor Jeanne and Jules Manford for all they have done for Queens, for New York, and for America, and I look forward to seeing this become law.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of you who are responsible for bringing this bill to the floor today for its consideration. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, as we close out the naming of our post offices, I want to take this time to just awaken this body and America on how the naming of post offices take the legacy of American citizens and allow us to celebrate them, remember them, and to create a sense of history in the communities where they live and serve.

Just to sum up the post offices that we have named today: Mary E. McCoy, an activist for women and African Americans; Ed Pastor, who was a Congressman; Barry Miller, an emergency responder; Amelia Robinson, a civil rights activist; Michael Oxley, a Member of Congress; Kenneth Christy, a letter carrier; and Jeanne and Jules Manford, LGBT activists.

Again, today, we have shown America that we recognize the service of those who on their own desire, will, and passion have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2607.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INSPECTOR GENERAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2395) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2395

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Full and prompt access to all documents.

Sec. 3. Additional authority provisions for Inspectors General.

Sec. 4. Additional responsibilities of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Sec. 5. Amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.

Sec. 6. Reports required.

Sec. 7. Public release of misconduct report.

Sec. 8. No additional funds authorized.

SEC. 2. FULL AND PROMPT ACCESS TO ALL DOCUMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a)(1) to read as follows:

“(1)(A) notwithstanding any other provision of law, except any provision of law enacted by Congress that expressly refers to an Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access by that Inspector General, to have timely access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials available to the applicable establishment which relate to programs and operations with respect to which that Inspector General has responsibilities under this Act; and

“(B) except as provided in subsection (i), with regard to Federal grand jury materials protected from disclosure pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e), to have timely access to such information if the Attorney General grants the request in accordance with subsection (g);”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(g) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO REQUEST FOR FEDERAL GRAND JURY MATERIALS.—

“(1) TRANSMISSION OF REQUEST TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—If the Inspector General of an establishment submits a request to the head of the establishment for Federal grand jury materials pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the head of the establishment shall immediately notify the Attorney General of such request.

“(2) ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINATION.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which a request is submitted to the Attorney General under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall determine whether to grant or deny the request for Federal grand jury materials and shall immediately notify the head of the establishment of such determination. The Attorney General shall grant the request unless the Attorney General determines that granting access to the Federal grand jury materials would be likely to—

“(A) interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution;

“(B) interfere with an undercover operation;

“(C) result in disclosure of the identity of a confidential source, including a protected witness;

“(D) pose a serious threat to national security; or

“(E) result in significant impairment of the trade or economic interests of the United States.

“(3) TRANSMITTAL OF DETERMINATION TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

“(A) NOTIFICATION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINATION.—The head of the establishment shall inform the Inspector General of the establishment of the determination made by the Attorney General with respect to the request for Federal grand jury materials.

“(B) COMMENTS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the establishment described under subparagraph (A) may submit comments on the determination submitted pursuant to such subparagraph to the committees listed under paragraph (4) that the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(4) SUBMISSION OF DENIALS TO CONGRESS BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after notifying the head of an establishment of a denial pursuant to paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall submit a statement that the request for Federal grand jury materials by the Inspector General was denied and the reason for the denial to each of the following:

“(A) The Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate.

“(B) The Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(C) Other appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress.

“(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as authorizing an Inspector General to publicly disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law.

“(i) EXCEPTION.—Subsections (a)(1)(B) and (g) shall not apply to requests from the Inspector General of the Department of Justice.”.

(b) SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Section 8E(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and insert “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) shall have access under section 6(a)(1)(A) to information available to the Department of Justice under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e).”.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY PROVISIONS FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL.

(a) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL TO REQUIRE TESTIMONY OF CERTAIN PERSONS.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

“SEC. 6A. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.

“(a) TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—In addition to the authority otherwise provided by this Act and in accordance with the requirements of this section, each Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this Act (or in the case of an Inspector General or Special Inspector General not established under this Act, the provisions of the authorizing statute), is authorized to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by this Act (or in the case of an Inspector General or Special Inspector General not established under this Act, the functions assigned by the authorizing statute), in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court. An Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of any current Federal employees, but may use other authorized procedures.

“(b) NONDELEGATION.—The authority to issue a subpoena under subsection (a) may not be delegated.

“(c) PANEL REVIEW BEFORE ISSUANCE.—

“(1) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—

“(A) REQUEST FOR APPROVAL BY SUBPOENA PANEL.—Before the issuance of a subpoena described in subsection (a), an Inspector Gen-

eral shall submit a request for approval to issue a subpoena to a panel (in this section, referred to as the ‘Subpoena Panel’), which shall be comprised of three Inspectors General of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, who shall be designated by the Inspector General serving as Chairperson of the Council.

“(B) PROTECTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—The information contained in the request submitted by an Inspector General under subparagraph (A) and the identification of a witness shall be protected from disclosure to the extent permitted by law. Any request for disclosure of such information shall be submitted to the Inspector General requesting the subpoena.

“(2) TIME TO RESPOND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Subpoena Panel shall approve or deny a request for approval to issue a subpoena not later than 10 days after the submission of such request.

“(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PANEL.—If the Subpoena Panel determines that additional information is necessary to approve or deny such request, the Subpoena Panel shall request such information and shall approve or deny such request not later than 20 days after the submission of such request.

“(3) DENIAL BY PANEL.—If a majority of the Subpoena Panel denies the approval of a subpoena, that subpoena may not be issued.

“(d) NOTICE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Subpoena Panel approves a subpoena under subsection (c), the Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General that the Inspector General intends to issue the subpoena.

“(2) DENIAL FOR INTERFERENCE WITH AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to paragraph (1), the Attorney General may object to the issuance of the subpoena because the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and the subpoena may not be issued.

“(3) ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENA APPROVED.—If the Attorney General does not object to the issuance of the subpoena during the ten-day period described in paragraph (2), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Chairperson of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘Inspector General’ includes each Inspector General established under this Act and each Inspector General or Special Inspector General not established under this Act.

“(g) APPLICABILITY.—The provisions of this section shall not affect the exercise of authority by an Inspector General of testimonial subpoena authority established under another provision of law.”;

(2) in section 5(a)—

(A) in paragraph (15), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(17) a description of the use of subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of certain witnesses authorized under section 6A.”; and

(3) in section 8G(g)(1), by inserting “6A,” before “and 7”.

(b) MATCHING PROGRAM AND PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT EXCEPTION FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 2(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) In this subsection, the terms ‘agency’, ‘matching program’, ‘record’, and ‘sys-

tem of records’ have the meanings given those terms in section 552a(a) of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) For purposes of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, a computerized comparison of 2 or more automated Federal systems of records, or a computerized comparison of a Federal system of records with other records or non-Federal records, performed by an Inspector General or by an agency in coordination with an Inspector General in conducting an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or other review authorized under this Act shall not be considered a matching program.

“(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impede the exercise by an Inspector General of any matching program authority established under any other provision of law.

“(h) Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information during the conduct of an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or other review conducted by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency or any Office of Inspector General, including any Office of Special Inspector General.”.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY.

(a) FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL.—Section 11(c)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (I); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraph:

“(H) except for any investigation, inspection, audit, or review conducted under section 103H of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033), receive, review, and mediate any disputes submitted in writing to the Council by an Office of Inspector General regarding an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or project that involves the jurisdiction of more than one Federal agency or entity; and”.

(b) INTEGRITY COMMITTEE.—Section 11(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) not later than 60 days after the date on which an allegation of wrongdoing is received by the Integrity Committee, make a determination whether the Integrity Committee will initiate an investigation of such allegation under this subsection.”;

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)(i), by striking “may provide resources” and inserting “shall provide assistance”; and

(3) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) in subclause (III), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (IV), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following new subclauses:

“(V) creating a regular rotation of Inspectors General assigned to investigate complaints through the Integrity Committee; and

“(VI) creating procedures to avoid conflicts of interest for Integrity Committee investigations.”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION.—If a determination is made under paragraph (5) to initiate an investigation, the Integrity Committee—

“(i) shall complete the investigation not later than six months after the date on which the Integrity Committee made such determination;

“(ii) if the investigation cannot be completed within such six-month period, shall—

“(I) promptly notify the congressional committees listed in paragraph (8)(A)(iii); and

“(II) to the maximum extent practicable, complete the investigation not later than 3 months after the expiration of the six-month period; and

“(iii) if the investigation cannot be completed within such nine-month period, shall brief the congressional committees listed in paragraph (8)(A)(iii) every thirty days until the investigation is complete.

“(D) CONCURRENT INVESTIGATION.—If an investigation of an allegation of wrongdoing against an Inspector General or a staff member of an Office of Inspector General described under paragraph (4)(C) is initiated by a governmental entity other than the Integrity Committee, the Integrity Committee may conduct any related investigation for which a determination to initiate an investigation was made under paragraph (5) concurrently with the other government entity.”

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION; DESIGNEE AUTHORITY.—Section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking “Office of the Director of National Intelligence” and inserting “Intelligence Community”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or the designee of the Special Counsel” before the period at the end; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or the designee of the Director” before the period at the end.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978 AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REFORM ACT OF 2008.

(a) INCORPORATION OF PROVISIONS FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REFORM ACT OF 2008 INTO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 11(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING AGAINST SPECIAL COUNSEL OR DEPUTY SPECIAL COUNSEL.—

“(A) SPECIAL COUNSEL DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘Special Counsel’ means the Special Counsel appointed under section 1211(b) of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) AUTHORITY OF INTEGRITY COMMITTEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An allegation of wrongdoing against the Special Counsel or the Deputy Special Counsel may be received, reviewed, and referred for investigation by the Integrity Committee to the same extent and in the same manner as in the case of an allegation against an Inspector General (or a member of the staff of an Office of Inspector General), subject to the requirement that the Special Counsel recuse himself or herself from the consideration of any allegation brought under this paragraph.

“(ii) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PROVISIONS OF LAW.—This paragraph does not eliminate access to the Merit Systems Protection Board for review under section 7701 of title 5, United States Code. To the extent that an allegation brought under this subsection involves section 2302(b)(8) of that title, a failure to obtain corrective action

within 120 days after the date on which that allegation is received by the Integrity Committee shall, for purposes of section 1221 of such title, be considered to satisfy section 1214(a)(3)(B) of that title.

“(C) REGULATIONS.—The Integrity Committee may prescribe any rules or regulations necessary to carry out this paragraph, subject to such consultation or other requirements as might otherwise apply.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(b) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-409; 122 Stat. 4312; 5 U.S.C. 1211 note) is repealed.

(b) AGENCY APPLICABILITY.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 3(a), is further amended—

(A) in section 8M—

(i) in subsection (a)(1)—

(I) by striking “agency” the first place it appears and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(II) by striking “agency” the second and third place it appears and inserting “Federal agency or designated Federal entity”; and

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in paragraph (1), by striking “agency” and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(II) in paragraph (2)—

(aa) in subparagraph (A), by striking “agency” and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (B), by striking “agency” and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(B) in section 11(c)(3)(A)(ii), by striking “department, agency, or entity of the executive branch” and inserting “Federal agency or designated Federal entity”.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head and the Inspector General of each Federal agency and each designated Federal entity (as such terms are defined in sections 12 and 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), respectively) shall implement the amendments made by this subsection.

(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL WEBSITES.—Section 8M(b)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “report or audit (or portion of any report or audit)” and inserting “audit report, inspection report, or evaluation report (or portion of any such report)”; and

(2) by striking “report or audit (or portion of that report or audit)” and inserting “report (or portion of that report)”, each place it appears.

(d) CORRECTIONS.—

(1) EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER.—Section 7(c)(2) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-409; 122 Stat. 4313; 31 U.S.C. 501 note) is amended by striking “12933” and inserting “12993”.

(2) PUNCTUATION AND CROSS-REFERENCES.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 3(a) and subsection (b), is further amended—

(A) in section 4(b)(2)—

(i) by striking “8F(a)(2)” and inserting “8G(a)(2)”, each place it appears; and

(ii) by striking “8F(a)(1)” and inserting “8G(a)(1)”; and

(B) in section 6(a)(4), by striking “information, as well as any tangible thing” and inserting “information, as well as any tangible thing”;

(C) in section 8G(g)(3), by striking “8C” and inserting “8D”; and

(D) in section 5(a)(13), by striking “05(b)” and inserting “804(b)”.

(3) SPELLING.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section

3(a), subsection (b), and paragraph (2), is further amended—

(A) in section 3(a), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”;

(B) in section 6(a)(4), by striking “subpena” and “subpenas” and inserting “subpoena” and “subpoenas”, respectively;

(C) in section 8D(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “subpenas” and inserting “subpoenas”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”, each place it appears;

(D) in section 8E(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “subpenas” and inserting “subpoenas”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”, each place it appears; and

(E) in section 8G(d), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”.

(e) REPEAL.—Section 744 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (division D of Public Law 111-8; 123 Stat. 693) is repealed.

SEC. 6. REPORTS REQUIRED.

(a) REPORT ON VACANCIES IN THE OFFICES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) GAO STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study of prolonged vacancies in the Offices of Inspector General, during which a temporary appointee has served as the head of the office that includes—

(A) the number and duration of Inspector General vacancies;

(B) an examination of the extent to which the number and duration of such vacancies has changed over time;

(C) an evaluation of the impact such vacancies have had on the ability of the relevant Office of the Inspector General to effectively carry out statutory requirements; and

(D) recommendations to minimize the duration of such vacancies.

(2) COMMITTEE BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than nine months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall present a briefing on the findings of the study described in subsection (a) to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than fifteen months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of the study described in subsection (a) to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(b) REPORT ON ISSUES INVOLVING MULTIPLE OFFICES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) EXAMINATION REQUIRED.—The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency shall conduct an analysis of critical issues that involve the jurisdiction of more than one individual Federal agency or entity to identify—

(A) each such issue that could be better addressed through greater coordination among, and cooperation between, individual Offices of Inspector General;

(B) the best practices that can be employed by the Offices of Inspector General to increase coordination and cooperation on each issue identified; and

(C) any recommended statutory changes that would facilitate coordination and cooperation among Offices of Inspector General on critical issues.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency shall submit

a report on the findings of the analysis described in subsection (a) to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 7. PUBLIC RELEASE OF MISCONDUCT REPORT.

(a) PUBLIC RELEASE BY INSPECTORS GENERAL OF REPORT OF MISCONDUCT.—Section 4(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) to make publicly available a final report on any administrative investigation that confirms misconduct, including any violation of Federal law and any significant violation of Federal agency policy, by any senior Government employee (as such term is defined under section 5(f)), not later than 60 days after issuance of the final report, ensuring that information protected under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’), section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), and section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is not disclosed.”

(b) REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT IN SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 2(a)(2), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by inserting at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(18) statistical tables showing—

“(A) the total number of investigative reports issued during that reporting period;

“(B) the total number of persons referred to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution during that reporting period;

“(C) the total number of persons referred to State and local prosecutive authorities for criminal prosecution during that reporting period; and

“(D) the total number of indictments and criminal informations during that reporting period that have resulted from any prior referral to prosecutive authorities;

“(19) a description of the metrics used for developing the data for the statistical tables under paragraph (18);

“(20) detailed descriptions of each investigation conducted by the Office involving a senior Government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated, including a detailed description of—

“(A) the facts and circumstances of the investigation; and

“(B) the status and disposition of the matter, including—

“(i) if the matter was referred to the Department of Justice, the date of the referral; and

“(ii) if the Department of Justice declined the referral, the date of the declination; and

“(21) a list and summary of the particular circumstances of each—

“(A) inspection, evaluation, and audit conducted by the Office that is closed and was not disclosed to the public; and

“(B) investigation conducted by the Office that is closed and was not disclosed to the public involving a senior Government employee.”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) the term ‘senior Government employee’ means—

“(A) an officer or employee in the executive branch (including a special Government employee as defined in section 202 of title 18, United States Code) who occupies a position classified at or above GS-15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule; and

“(B) any commissioned officer in the Armed Forces in pay grades O-6 and above.”

SEC. 8. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2395, the Inspector General Empowerment Act.

Indeed, the inspectors general play a key role in improving our government's efficiency. They conduct investigations and audits to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and mismanagement in their agencies' programs. The IGs help Congress to shape legislation and to target our oversight and investigative activities.

The IGs have proven to be one of Congress' best investments. In the last fiscal year, the IG community used their \$2.6 billion budget to identify potential cost savings to the taxpayers, totaling \$46.5 billion. That means that for every dollar in the total IG's budget, they identified approximately \$18 in savings.

In light of this return on investment, we want the IGs to have every access to the records that they need to do their jobs. But that hasn't always been the case, Mr. Speaker. For example, at the Justice Department, the inspector general could not access grand jury documents or national security-related documents without the approval of the Deputy Attorney General or the Federal courts.

At the EPA, several offices, including the EPA's Office of Homeland Security, intentionally interfered with the IG's

investigations. At the Chemical Safety Board—which the EPA OIG also oversees—the IG was denied access to certain documents based on a phony attorney-client privilege claim. And the Peace Corps refused to provide its inspector general access to information related to sexual assaults on the Peace Corps volunteers absent a memorandum of understanding.

In all of these instances, the agencies had clear guidance from section 6(a) of the IG Act to provide the IG with access to all records, but that guidance, indeed, was ignored.

The IG Empowerment Act makes clear that section 6(a) means exactly what it says: Every inspector general shall have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials.

When agencies refuse or limit IGs' access to agency records, it undermines the intent of Congress and frustrates our mutual interest in government transparency and efficiency. Furthermore, the negotiations between agencies and their IGs are wasteful. Both sides commit time and resources—which sometimes include hiring outside lawyers—so that those resources could be better used elsewhere.

These are some of the problems that we are trying to address with the Inspector General Empowerment Act. The bill we are considering today will make the IGs even more effective by allowing them to follow the facts where they lead. For years, the IGs have asked us to extend to them the authority to issue subpoenas to get answers from government contractors and former Federal employees.

Independent sources, including the DOJ's National Procurement Task Force and the Project on Government Oversight, have also urged Congress to expand the testimonial subpoena authority.

This bill provides the expanded authority that the IGs have asked for, but with safeguards in place to make sure that they protect against the possibility that an IG's investigation would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation, or do other harm.

This bill represents several years of bipartisan work, and it reflects input from stakeholders. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2395, the Inspector General Empowerment Act. This bill, introduced by Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman JASON CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS, was approved by the committee with strong bipartisan support.

There is a reason why this bill has so much support: it strengthens the inspectors general, who are the first line

of defense against waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal programs. In fiscal year 2014 alone, IGs made recommendations to improve the economy and efficiency of Federal programs that could save \$46.5 billion. As my colleague, Mr. MEADOWS, stated, this is a return of about \$18 for every \$1 invested in IG budgets.

The bill would make a number of improvements to the Inspector General Act. It will guarantee IG access to agency information. Unfettered access to agency information is a cornerstone of the IG's ability to conduct their missions effectively. The bill would also grant IGs the authority to issue subpoenas to compel testimony after careful review and with the concurrence of the Department of Justice. IGs would also be granted expedited authority to match Federal records across agencies under this bill, which would facilitate audits and help identify fraud and waste in Federal programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the Inspector General Empowerment Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ for his vision and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for working in a bipartisan way to not only empower our IGs, but give them the tools necessary to do what they do best; that is, to work on behalf of the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to let Congresswoman LAWRENCE know that I have no further speakers at this point and am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I, again, give my support to this bill. I want to note that this is bipartisan. So often we have many disagreements on either side of the aisle about policy. It is a good day in Congress when we work together in a bipartisan way to empower our Federal agencies while saving money and creating efficiencies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), my good friend. She well notes that not only is this a bipartisan bill, but it is one that is widely supported. I would also like to thank our respective staffs for the hard work that they have put in on crafting this particular piece of legislation. I think it becomes a powerful tool.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Inspector General Empowerment Act.

Inspectors General play a crucial role in making the federal government more effective and efficient. The bill we are considering today will help the IGs do their jobs even better. I appreciate the time and effort that Oversight Committee Chairman JASON CHAFFETZ and his

staff put into making this bill a truly bipartisan product. I also want to thank Representative MARK MEADOWS for his work on this bill.

This bill would make crystal clear that Inspectors General have the right to access any information available to the agency the IG oversees. An agency could not deny an IG access to information unless Congress expressly limits the rights of an IG to access the information in a statute.

The bill includes special provisions for grand jury information held by the Department of Justice. Under the bill, the IG for DOJ would have unfettered access to grand jury information, but the Attorney General could limit access to grand jury information for other agency IGs under certain exceptions. This language was painstakingly worked out with feedback from DOJ and the Inspectors General.

The Inspector General Empowerment Act would also give Inspectors General the ability to subpoena witnesses. This would be a significant new authority.

I believe most IGs would act responsibly and use this authority only when absolutely necessary. There is a potential for abuse, however, so the bill includes several safeguards. The bill would require an IG, before issuing a subpoena, to go through two reviews.

The first review would be conducted by the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency. A panel of three Inspectors General would approve or deny any request by an IG to issue a subpoena for witness testimony. The second review would be conducted by the Attorney General, who would have the opportunity to object if the subpoena would interfere with an ongoing investigation. I believe the bill strikes a careful balance in granting IGs the authority to interview witnesses outside of the government while also providing these important checks against potential abuse.

The Inspector General Empowerment Act would also make needed reforms to the process used for investigating allegations of wrongdoing by Inspectors General. The current process can be agonizingly slow. The bill also contains several other reforms aimed at helping IGs perform independent audits and investigations.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2395, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEMALE VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2487) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Sec-

retary, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2487

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION OF WOMEN VETERANS IN EVALUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

Section 1709B(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", including metrics applicable specifically to women";

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) identify the mental health care and suicide prevention programs conducted by the Secretary that are most effective for women veterans and such programs with the highest satisfaction rates among women veterans."

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

FISCAL YEAR 2016 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SEISMIC SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4590) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4590

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings, in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed \$175,880,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including facilities to support homeless veterans,