

United States Senate Committee On

HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ranking Member Gary Peters

A stylized eagle with spread wings is centered in the background. Above the eagle's head are five gold stars. The entire graphic is set against a dark teal background.

UNDERMINING THE WATCHDOGS

*The 19 Independent Inspectors General
Fired by President Trump
Uncovered Billions
in Fraud, Waste, and Abuse*

HSGAC Minority Staff Report

May 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Inspectors General (IGs) are one of the federal government's primary mechanisms for ensuring good governance and proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Operating independently from the agencies they oversee, their mission is to root out fraud, waste, and abuse. These nonpartisan Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs), established by Congress throughout the federal government, are staffed by professionals who audit government contracts and payments, investigate fraud and other crimes, and evaluate government programs to improve efficiency.¹ Through this work, OIGs have returned billions of dollars to the federal government and the American taxpayers. In fiscal year 2024 alone, all IGs in the federal government had over \$71 billion in combined monetary impact, through potential savings from audit recommendations and recoveries made pursuant to investigations.² Those same OIGs had a combined budget of \$3.9 billion in that same year, meaning that their monetary impact represented an \$18 return for every dollar invested in OIGs.³

President Trump and Elon Musk have claimed that among his Administration's chief priorities is cutting waste, which, if true, would seem to dovetail with the IGs' missions. Yet, in his first week in office, President Trump fired 18 of the IGs at key federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, State, Commerce, and Veterans Affairs, among others. President Trump subsequently fired another IG, the Inspector General for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in what appears to be clear retaliation for that IG issuing a report raising concern over billions in potential waste following the Trump Administration's actions to shutter that agency.⁴ All of these firings violate the law, remove yet another check on President Trump's responsibilities to faithfully execute the law, and run contrary to the principles of good governance and President Trump's own stated goal of rooting out waste.

President Trump and Musk announced the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) supposedly to identify and eliminate government waste and duplication. But from the start, that effort was wasteful and duplicative *in itself*. Not only has DOGE not leveraged IGs' existing work, but it has failed in its own self-declared goals. After initially claiming that he could identify \$2 trillion in savings in the federal government, Musk then revised that goal to \$1 trillion after the election – and then in April, he again lowered his estimate of projected savings to \$150 billion.⁵ That amount was \$25 billion less than the potential savings that the 19 fired IGs had already identified across the federal government, before they were

¹ Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), *Annual Report to the President and Congress: Fiscal Year 2024* (Mar. 2025).

² CIGIE, *Annual Report to the President and Congress: Fiscal Year 2024* (Mar. 2025), at 1.

³ *Id.*

⁴ U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General, *Advisory Notice: Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance* (Feb. 10, 2025).

⁵ *DOGE Is Far Short of Its Goal, and Still Overstating Its Progress*, The New York Times (Apr. 13, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/13/us/politics/doge-contracts-savings.html>).

summarily fired by President Trump.⁶ DOGE has since updated its estimate of projected savings to \$170 billion, which reportedly still includes some erroneous “savings” that did not actually occur – but even that amount is still \$5 billion less than the potential savings identified by the fired IGs.⁷

Even some of that waste and fraud DOGE *has* claimed to have uncovered has reportedly turned out to not be waste or fraud at all.⁸ DOGE’s chaotic and haphazard approach to cutting has been laid bare when it has had to reverse course after mistakenly cutting vital government services. For example, Musk acknowledged that DOGE “accidentally canceled” USAID efforts to fight the spread of Ebola, and then had to restore them.⁹ DOGE also reportedly fired hundreds of employees who work on nuclear weapons programs at the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration, only to rescind nearly all of those firings following a bipartisan outcry.¹⁰

DOGE also posted a “wall of receipts” on its website, purporting to show government contracts it had canceled. However, the site was reportedly “often muddled by major errors” – at one point claiming \$16 billion in savings when in reality nearly half of those supposed savings were attributable to a single contract worth \$8 *million* that DOGE mistakenly logged as \$8 *billion*.¹¹ Instead of improving its reporting in the wake of these mistakes, DOGE simply changed its website to no longer include details about savings it claimed, thereby “making its new mistakes harder to find, leaving its already secretive activities even less transparent than before.”¹²

⁶ See table below. Includes total potential savings through recommendations that remain open to date. Offices of Inspectors General, *Semiannual Reports to Congress*.

⁷ Department of Government Efficiency, *Savings* (<https://doge.gov/savings>) (accessed May 15, 2025); *DOGE Removes Dozens of Resurrected Contracts From Its List of Savings*, The New York Times (May 13, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/13/us/politics/doge-musk-contracts-trump.html>).

⁸ *Musk’s Latest Fraud Finding Isn’t What It Seems*, The New York Times (Apr. 12, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/12/upshot/musk-doge-fraud-claims.html>); *Doge unemployment ‘fraud’ discoveries are old finds from Biden era, experts say*, The Guardian (Apr. 16, 2025) (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/16/elon-musk-doge-fraud>).

⁹ Experts warned that the Ebola initiatives still remained halted. *Musk says DOGE ‘restored’ Ebola prevention effort. Officials say that’s not true.*, The Washington Post (Feb. 27, 2025) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/26/elon-musk-ebola-prevention-usaid-doge/>).

¹⁰ *Trump administration tries to bring back fired nuclear weapons workers in DOGE reversal*, Associated Press (Feb. 16, 2025) (<https://apnews.com/article/nuclear-doge-firings-trump-federal-916e6819104f04f44c345b7dde4904d5>); *DOGE Cuts Reach Key Nuclear Scientists, Bomb Engineers and Safety Experts*, The New York Times (Mar. 17, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/17/us/politics/federal-job-cuts-nuclear-bomb-engineers-scientists.html>).

¹¹ *DOGE website offers error-filled window into Musk’s government overhaul*, Reuters, (Mar. 4, 2025) (<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/doge-website-offers-error-filled-window-into-musks-government-overhaul-2025-03-04/>); *DOGE Claimed It Saved \$8 Billion in One Contract. It Was Actually \$8 Million.*, The New York Times (Feb. 18, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/18/upshot/doge-contracts-musk-trump.html>).

¹² *DOGE Makes Its Latest Errors Harder to Find*, The New York Times (Mar. 13, 2025) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/13/us/politics/doge-errors-funding-grants-claims.html>).

In contrast to those chaotic and wasteful actions, professional IGs have a long, documented history of uncovering actual waste and fraud and delivering actual savings to the taxpayers. The following are just a few examples from the previous fiscal year:

- The Department of Energy (DOE) OIG identified a grantee who was under investigation for illegally exporting semiconductor manufacturing equipment to a Chinese company, resulting in DOE de-obligating \$100 million in grants to the company.¹³
- Department of Health and Human Services OIG investigators helped prosecute two brothers who “bribed doctors to order unnecessary durable medical equipment,” and were ordered to pay more than \$424 million in restitution.¹⁴
- The Department of Commerce OIG halted or recovered shipments valued over \$2 million after it helped uncover a fraudulent government procurement scheme in which Nigeria-based individuals impersonated Department of Commerce procurement officials.¹⁵
- The Department of Defense OIG assisted an investigation that led to a prison term of over 12 years and forfeiture of \$1.4 million from a former U.S. Army financial counselor who had defrauded Gold Star families.¹⁶

As demonstrated in the table below and the sections to follow, the 19 IGs who were fired by President Trump had a collective monetary impact of over \$50 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2024 alone, by identifying potential savings in federal programs (such as questioned costs and funds that could be put to better use) and achieving actual investigative recoveries (through criminal, civil, and administrative recoveries such as fines, settlements, and restitution).¹⁷ To date, the 19 OIGs have identified a total of \$175 billion in potential savings that could be achieved if federal agencies implement the OIGs’ recommendations that remain open.¹⁸

IGs are required to be “nonpartisan and selected without regard to political affiliation.”¹⁹ While the President has the authority to remove IGs from office, Congress has established clear requirements to ensure such removals are transparent and apolitical. The law requires that the President provide a written 30-day notice to both Houses of Congress and include “the substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons for any such removal or

¹³ DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 5.

¹⁴ HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at i-ii.

¹⁵ Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 10.

¹⁶ Department of Justice, *U.S. Army Financial Counselor Sentenced to 151 Months in Prison for Defrauding Gold Star Families* (Aug. 21, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/us-army-financial-counselor-sentenced-151-months-prison-defrauding-gold-star-families>).

¹⁷ Offices of Inspectors General, *Semiannual Reports to Congress*.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ CIGIE, *Presidential Transition Handbook: The Role of Inspectors General and the Transition to a New Administration* (Nov. 2024).

transfer.”²⁰ President Trump failed to provide either the mandatory 30-day notice or a rationale for removal of these 19 IGs. But the true reasons for him doing so appear clear: weaken one of the most powerful independent checks on his Administration from within the federal government, and send a message to anyone else who would consider criticizing his actions.

In briefings with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (the Committee), staff at various OIGs told the Committee how morale has suffered in the wake of their leaders’ firings, and how some are even starting to fear for their long-established independence. Some OIGs also reported losing staff as a result of the Trump Administration’s recent government-wide staffing cuts, which they said will affect their ability to conduct audits, evaluations, and investigations to improve federal programs – as well as infringe upon the independent hiring authority granted to IGs under federal law.

As a result of President Trump’s illegal firings, the federal government is at increased risk of fraud, waste, and abuse – including by Trump Administration officials. Examples of such misconduct and waste of taxpayer resources from the first Trump Administration offer perspective on the importance of independent oversight from IGs. In September 2017, Politico reported that then-Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tom Price traveled aboard chartered aircraft five times in the course of a week and had used private aircraft at least 24 times during his seven months in office, all at public expense.²¹ HHS-OIG investigated and found that these trips cost taxpayers \$1.2 million, of which \$341,000 was identified as wasteful spending, excluding reimbursed costs.²² In less than two years in office, then-Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) Ryan Zinke was reportedly the subject of at least 18 federal investigations, including nine from DOI-OIG.²³ Secretary Zinke resigned in December 2018 just before the incoming 116th Congress was expected to engage in new oversight inquiries of his activities.²⁴

It is undeniable that the federal government requires oversight and that fraud, waste, and abuse should be identified and eradicated. But that is why we have IGs – they are the government’s primary independent watchdogs, they keep public officials in check, and they save billions in taxpayer dollars. They are also accountable to both the legislative and executive branches and serve a vital role in supporting congressional oversight of the Administration. As

²⁰ 5 U.S.C. 403(b) as amended by section 5202(a) of the *Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2022* (Title LII, Subtitle A, of Pub. L. No. 117-263).

²¹ *Price’s private-jet travel breaks precedent*, Politico (Sep. 19, 2017) (<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/19/tom-price-chartered-planes-flights-242908>); *Price traveled by private plane at least 24 times*, Politico (Sep. 21, 2017) (<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/21/tom-price-private-charter-plane-flights-242989>).

²² Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, *The Office of the Secretary Of Health and Human Services Did Not Comply with Federal Regulations for Chartered Aircraft and Other Government Travel Related to Former Secretary Price* (A-12-17-00002) (Jul. 2018), at 7.

²³ Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, *A Guide to the 18 Federal Investigations into Ryan Zinke* (Aug. 9, 2018) (<https://www.citizensforethics.org/a-guide-to-the-14-federal-investigations-into-ryan-zinke/>).

²⁴ *Interior Secretary Zinke resigns amid investigations*, The Washington Post (Dec. 15, 2018) (https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/interior-secretary-zinke-resigns-amid-investigations/2018/12/15/481f9104-0077-11e9-ad40-cdfd0e0dd65a_story.html).

these 19 OIGs told the Committee in requested briefings about their planned and ongoing audits and investigations, their work continues and their staff have continued to identify potential savings. But without steady permanent leadership – with the advice and consent of the Senate – these OIGs’ work to oversee the Trump Administration and their long-term independence will be threatened, and the American taxpayer stands to lose.

MONETARY IMPACT OF THE 19 INSPECTORS GENERAL FIRED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

OIG	Fiscal Year 2024 Monetary Impact			Total Potential Savings to Date ³	Return on Investment
	Audits / Evaluations ¹	Investigations ²	Total		
Social Security Administration	\$12,130,981,319	\$248,182,819	\$12,379,164,138	\$18,455,855,130	21:1
Health & Human Services	\$2,901,388,816	\$6,513,028,452	\$9,414,417,268	\$34,381,729,347	10:1
Small Business Administration	\$8,062,519,961	\$444,076,555	\$8,506,596,516	\$15,460,828,524	17:1
Dept. of Defense	\$4,895,300,000	\$2,156,100,000	\$7,051,400,000	\$8,861,485,541	4:1
Dept. of Veterans Affairs	\$2,174,945,069	\$4,407,063,831	\$6,582,008,900	\$1,682,910,084	28:1
Dept. of Agriculture	\$1,705,440,919	\$247,689,075	\$1,953,129,994	\$1,332,551,279	18:1
Dept. of Commerce	\$1,382,604,533	\$31,404,637	\$1,414,009,170	\$1,673,257,925	24:1
Dept. of Transportation	\$1,185,608,935	\$55,779,008	\$1,241,387,943	\$2,270,000,000	11:1
Dept. of Energy	\$823,333,478	\$25,051,285	\$848,384,763	\$301,541,484	9:1
Office of Personnel Management	\$310,873,785	\$3,437,807	\$314,311,592	\$303,688,559	9:1
Dept. of Labor	\$129,565,581	\$138,790,754	\$268,356,335	\$75,677,203,834	3:1
Housing & Urban Development	\$111,908,966	\$76,042,966	\$187,951,932	\$12,030,247,712	1.2:1
Dept. of Education	\$2,918,892	\$94,613,491	\$97,532,383	\$23,764,898	1.5:1
Dept. of Interior	\$13,895,123	\$59,908,738	\$73,803,861	\$57,226,535	1.1:1
U.S. Agency for Intl. Development	\$46,795,078	\$16,463,665	\$63,258,743	\$54,669,539	0.8:1
Environmental Protection Agency	\$56,695,934	\$570,180	\$57,266,114	\$38,536,000	2:1
Dept. of State	\$819,201	\$43,732,893	\$44,552,094	\$238,638,207	3.6:1
Dept. of Treasury	\$1,292,965	\$22,108,838	\$23,401,803	\$2,237,683,672	33:1
SIGAR	\$4,871,441	\$0	\$4,871,441	\$4,670,000	6:1
TOTAL	\$35,941,759,996	\$14,584,044,994	\$50,525,804,990	\$175,086,488,270	

Source: Offices of Inspectors General, *Semiannual Reports to Congress*.

¹ Includes potential savings through recommendations such as questioned costs and funds put to better use.

² Includes criminal, civil, and administrative recoveries such as fines, settlements, and restitution.

³ Includes total potential savings through recommendations that remain open to date.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Hannibal Ware

Appointed by President Biden
as Acting IG on Sep. 30, 2024

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
21:1**



SSA-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ²⁵	\$12,130,981,319
Investigations ²⁶	\$248,182,819
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$12,379,164,138

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If SSA were to implement all open recommendations from SSA-OIG, the federal government could save up to²⁷:

\$18,455,855,130

²⁵ Includes questioned costs and funds put to better use. SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 5, 35-36; SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 4, 37-38.

²⁶ Includes court-ordered restitution, recoveries, settlements, judgments, fines, and estimated savings resulting from investigations. SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 5; SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 4.

²⁷ SSA-OIG, *Informational Report: Office of the Inspector General Audit Recommendations that Had Not Been Implemented as of January 29, 2025* (Mar. 2025).

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- SSA-OIG investigated an individual who was sentenced to 2 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$850,000 after he concealed his mother's death for 32 years and fraudulently received her SSA benefits by claiming his mother lived in Japan.²⁸
- Following an SSA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 2 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$190,000 after she "used the identity of a deceased child to avoid a pending criminal prosecution, fraudulently obtain benefits from SSA, and defraud several other government agencies" over the course of 13 years.²⁹
- Following an SSA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to over 2 years in prison after he posed as his deceased schoolmate for 27 years to obtain and renew passports, apply for Supplemental Security Income payments, and access restricted work areas at the Philadelphia International Airport.³⁰
- SSA-OIG investigated a former reality TV star who was sentenced to 4 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$560,000 for fraudulently using Social Security Numbers to open and operate businesses, apply for loans, and establish lines of credit over the course of a decade, including after she was indicted.³¹
- SSA-OIG helped an investigate the owner of a telecommunications company who was sentenced to 2 months in prison and ordered to pay \$393,000 for facilitating imposter spam calls, such as impersonating SSA or IRS agents to defraud U.S. consumers.³²
- Following an SSA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 7 years in prison for stealing a Social Security number to "assume the identity of a veteran and to apply for a U.S. Passport."³³

²⁸ SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 13-14.

²⁹ SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 12.

³⁰ SSA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 15.

³¹ *Id.*, at 16.

³² *Id.*, at 28.

³³ *Id.*, at 14.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Christi A. Grimm

Nominated by President Biden on Jun. 24, 2021
Confirmed as IG on Feb. 17, 2022

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
10:1**



HHS-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Evaluations ³⁴	\$2,901,388,816
Investigations ³⁵	\$6,513,028,452
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$9,414,417,268

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If HHS were to implement all open recommendations from HHS-OIG, the federal government could save up to³⁶:

\$34,381,729,347

³⁴ Includes questioned costs, unsupported costs, and funds put to better use. HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 24; HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 18.

³⁵ Includes investigative receivables. HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 19; Email from HHS-OIG to Committee staff (Mar. 10, 2025) (on file with Committee).

³⁶ HHS-OIG, *Recommendations Tracker* (<https://oig.hhs.gov/reports/recommendations/tracker/>) (accessed Apr. 29, 2025).

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- HHS-OIG investigators helped prosecute two brothers who “bribed doctors to order unnecessary durable medical equipment,” and were ordered to pay more than \$424 million in restitution.³⁷
- HHS-OIG investigated a nurse practitioner who was sentenced to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$111 million for billing for unnecessary tests, unneeded equipment, and telemedicine visits that never occurred.³⁸
- HHS-OIG investigated two individuals who were sentenced to prison for 5 and 8 years for defrauding Medicare by billing over \$93 million for home health therapy services that were never provided.³⁹
- In FY 2024, HHS-OIG excluded over 3,000 bad actors from participating in federal health programs, including:
 - HHS-OIG excluded a caretaker from participating in federal health programs for 30 years after she was convicted of elder abuse causing the death of a 66-year-old disabled woman in her care.⁴⁰
 - HHS-OIG excluded a registered nurse from participating in federal health programs for 10 years after she was convicted of endangerment in connection with the death of a patient.⁴¹
 - HHS-OIG excluded a nurse practitioner after she was convicted of a \$192 million fraud scheme.⁴²

³⁷ HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at i-ii.

³⁸ HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 9.

³⁹ *Id.*, at 9-10.

⁴⁰ Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office, *Defendant Convicted of Elder Abuse Causing Death of 66-Year-Old Disabled Woman* (Sep. 21, 2023) (<https://www.sacda.org/2023/09/defendant-convicted-of-elder-abuse-causing-death-of-66-year-old-disabled-woman/>); HHS-OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff.

⁴¹ HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 12.

⁴² *Id.*, at iii; HHS-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at. ii and 7.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Hannibal Ware

Nominated by President Trump on Oct. 16, 2017
Confirmed as IG on Apr. 26, 2018

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
17:1**



SBA-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ⁴³	\$8,062,519,961
Investigations ⁴⁴	\$444,076,555
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$8,506,596,516

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If SBA were to implement all open recommendations from SBA-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁴⁵:

\$15,460,828,524

⁴³ Includes questioned costs. SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at ii, 27, 31; SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 27, 32.

⁴⁴ Includes potential recoveries and fines, administrative seizures, asset forfeitures, and loans/contracts not approved or canceled. SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 27; SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 27.

⁴⁵ SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 35.

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- SBA-OIG contributed to an investigation into the leader of a COVID relief fraud ring who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for fraudulently obtaining over \$20 million in forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans from SBA.⁴⁶
- SBA-OIG investigated an individual who was sentenced to 5 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$5 million in a scheme to defraud “nearly every major pandemic assistance program.” The defendant spent the fraudulently obtained funds “on luxury cars, lavish trips, cosmetic surgery, jewelry, and designer goods.”⁴⁷
- SBA-OIG investigated a restaurant owner who was sentenced to 2 and half years in prison for fraudulently obtaining \$3.3 million in COVID relief funds and spending the money on refinancing his mortgage, payments to a Lexus dealership, and a casino.⁴⁸
- SBA-OIG investigated a former NFL player who was sentenced to over a year in prison and ordered to repay nearly \$1 million for fraudulently obtaining Paycheck Protection Program loans, after which he “he posted social media pictures of himself holding a large stack of cash, buying a Rolex watch and other jewelry, and renting a room at a luxury hotel.”⁴⁹
- SBA-OIG investigated a former dentist who was sentenced to over 5 years in prison for stealing \$11.5 million in COVID relief funds and “illegally distributing thousands of doses of prescription drugs.”⁵⁰
- SBA-OIG investigated a financial advisor who was sentenced to over 3 years in prison and ordered to pay \$1.1 million for submitting fraudulent COVID relief applications “in the names of shell companies that had no employees and

⁴⁶ SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7.

⁴⁷ *Id.*, at 13.

⁴⁸ SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 5.

⁴⁹ *Id.*, at 6.

⁵⁰ *Id.*, at 13.

conducted no business activities.” He also recruited and taught others to submit fraudulent applications, including through his YouTube channel.⁵¹

⁵¹ SBA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 8.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Robert P. Storch

Nominated by President Biden on Nov. 15, 2021
Confirmed as IG on Nov. 30, 2022

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
4:1**



DOD-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Evaluations ⁵²	\$4,895,300,000
Investigations ⁵³	\$2,156,100,000
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$7,051,400,000

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If DOD were to implement all open recommendations from DOD-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁵⁴:

\$8,861,485,541

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- DOD-OIG assisted an investigation that led to an agreement by defense contractor Raytheon to pay over \$950 million to settle allegations related to a

⁵² Includes unsupported costs, questioned costs, funds put to better use, and achieved monetary benefits. DOD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7; DOD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 9.

⁵³ Includes civil judgments and settlements; criminal fines, penalties, and restitution ordered; administrative recoveries; recovered government property; and seized assets, asset forfeiture, and money judgments. DOD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 15; DOD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 15.

⁵⁴ DOD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 40.

scheme to bribe a government official in Qatar to obtain contracts, and separate schemes to defraud DOD through inflated prices for PATRIOT missile systems and a radar system.⁵⁵

- DOD-OIG assisted an investigation that led to a prison term of over 12 years and forfeiture of \$1.4 million from a former U.S. Army financial counselor who had defrauded Gold Star families.⁵⁶
- DOD-OIG investigated a man who sold \$3.5 million in counterfeit and substandard electronics for use in military systems, resulting in a prison sentence of 3 years and 6 months.⁵⁷
- DOD-OIG investigated a man who engaged in a kickback conspiracy to defraud the Army by inflating project costs by over \$200,000.⁵⁸
- Following an investigation by DOD-OIG, GE Aerospace agreed to pay \$9.4 million to resolve allegations that it sold nonconforming parts to the Army and Navy.⁵⁹
- DOD-OIG investigated three individuals who were sentenced to prison for a bribery scheme to sell parts at a substantial markup to an Army base.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ Department of Justice, *Raytheon Company to Pay Over \$950 Million in Connection With Foreign Bribery, Export Control and Defective Pricing Schemes* (Oct. 16, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/raytheon-company-pay-over-950m-connection-defective-pricing-foreign-bribery-and-export>); DOD-OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff; Email from DOD-OIG to Committee staff (Mar. 28, 2025) (on file with Committee).

⁵⁶ Department of Justice, *U.S. Army Financial Counselor Sentenced to 151 Months in Prison for Defrauding Gold Star Families* (Aug. 21, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/us-army-financial-counselor-sentenced-151-months-prison-defrauding-gold-star-families>).

⁵⁷ Department of Justice, *Man Sentenced for Selling \$3.5M in Counterfeit and Substandard Electronics for Use in Military Systems* (Jul. 18, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/man-sentenced-selling-35m-counterfeit-and-substandard-electronics-use-military-systems>).

⁵⁸ Department of Justice, *Project Manager Pleads Guilty to Kickback Scheme to Defraud a U.S. Army Facility* (Jan. 30, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/project-manager-pleads-guilty-kickback-scheme-defraud-us-army-facility>).

⁵⁹ Department of Justice, *GE Aerospace Agrees to Pay \$9.4 Million to Resolve Allegations of False Claims Act Violations* (Nov. 6, 2023) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/ge-aerospace-agrees-pay-94-million-resolve-allegations-false-claims-act-violations>).

⁶⁰ Department of Justice, *Three Individuals Sentenced for Bribery Scheme at Ft. Gregg-Adams* (Nov. 3, 2023) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/three-individuals-sentenced-bribery-scheme-ft-gregg-adams>).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Michael J. Missal

Nominated by President Obama on Oct. 5, 2015

Confirmed as IG on Apr. 19, 2016

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
28:1**



VA-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Evaluations ⁶¹	\$2,174,945,069
Investigations ⁶²	\$4,407,063,831
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$6,582,008,900

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If VA were to implement all open recommendations from VA-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁶³:

\$1,682,910,084

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Along with the Michigan Attorney General, VA-OIG investigated an individual who was sentenced to serve between 6.5 and 20 years in state prison and

⁶¹ Includes questioned costs and better use of funds. VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 36; VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 38.

⁶² Includes dollar recoveries; fines, penalties, restitution, and civil judgments; fugitive felon program; and savings and cost avoidance. VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 36; VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 38.

⁶³ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 78.

ordered to pay \$470,000 for posing as the spouse of multiple deceased veterans to fraudulently obtain VA benefits.⁶⁴

- VA-OIG helped investigate 10 individuals who were sentenced to prison for submitting \$2 million in fraudulent claims to a VA program that provides financial support to service members recovering from severe injuries.⁶⁵
- VA-OIG helped investigate a former VA doctor who illegally distributed over 1.8 million doses of opioids to patients and defrauded health programs of \$5.4 million.⁶⁶
- VA-OIG helped investigate a VA pharmacy technician who was sentenced to prison for stealing and reselling controlled substances intended for veterans.⁶⁷
- Following a VA-OIG joint investigation, two individuals were sentenced between 1-2 years in prison for conspiring to distribute fentanyl to veterans seeking treatment for substance use disorder at a VA hospital.⁶⁸
- VA-OIG investigated sales representatives who pled guilty to bribing VA employees to purchase surgeries at inflated prices worth \$3.7 million.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 15; VA-OIG, *February 2024 Highlights* (https://www.vaoig.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2024-03/monthly_highlights_february_2024.pdf), at 4.

⁶⁵ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 14.

⁶⁶ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 15-16.

⁶⁷ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 17.

⁶⁸ *Id.*, at 44; VA-OIG, *November 2023 Highlights* (https://www.vaoig.gov/sites/default/files/document/2023-12/monthly_highlights_november_2023.pdf), at 2.

⁶⁹ VA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 17.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Phyllis Fong

Nominated by President Bush on Mar. 14, 2002
Confirmed as IG on Nov. 14, 2002

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
18:1**



USDA-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ⁷⁰	\$1,705,440,919
Investigations ⁷¹	\$247,689,075
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$1,953,129,994

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If USDA were to implement all open recommendations from USDA-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁷²:

\$1,332,551,279

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 20 years in prison “for stealing more than \$2 million in SNAP [food stamp]

⁷⁰ Includes questioned costs and funds put to better use. USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 17; USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 17.

⁷¹ Includes recoveries/collections, restitutions, fines, other monetary remedies, asset forfeitures, claims established, cost avoidance, administrative penalties, and special assessments. USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 18; USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 17.

⁷² USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 19-21.

benefits from approximately 3,000 needy and disabled beneficiaries throughout the United States.” The man and his coconspirators used “skimming devices” to steal the SNAP account information from legitimate beneficiaries, then used that information to fraudulently purchase groceries from stores they owned—leaving beneficiaries with no money in their SNAP accounts to buy food.⁷³

- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 5 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$1.2 million after he unlawfully obtained SNAP benefits by purchasing SNAP cards from beneficiaries for cash at discounted rates. This was despite the fact that the defendant had previously been disqualified from the SNAP program, but used the names of family members to re-gain admittance to the program.⁷⁴
- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an animal breeding company was required to pay over \$35 million – the largest ever fine in an Animal Welfare Act case – and surrendered over 4,000 beagles for failing to provide “adequate veterinary care, adequate staffing, and safe living conditions for dogs housed” at its facility.⁷⁵
- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to a year in prison for his role in a dogfighting conspiracy. USDA-OIG seized 82 dogs, over 2 kilograms of illicit drugs, and 45 firearms from 26 locations across Indiana.⁷⁶
- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to over 3 years in prison and ordered to pay \$3.5 million for defrauding the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The defendant had previously been convicted of crop insurance fraud and agreed to a 5-year exclusion from the program, but then he conspired with members of his family to again apply for and receive

⁷³ USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7; Department of Justice, *Liberian Man Sentenced to 20 Years For Stealing \$2.6M in SNAP Benefits From Needy* (Mar. 20, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/liberian-man-sentenced-20-years-stealing-26m-snap-benefits-needy>).

⁷⁴ USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7; Department of Justice, *Swansea Man Sentenced to 5 Years' Imprisonment for Taking \$1.2 Million in SNAP Benefits* (Mar. 1, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/swansea-man-sentenced-5-years-imprisonment-taking-12-million-snap-benefits>).

⁷⁵ Department of Justice, *Animal Breeder Sentenced in Animal Welfare and Water Pollution Crimes, Will Pay More than \$35M, Including Record Fine in Animal Welfare Case* (Oct. 24, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdva/pr/animal-breeder-sentenced-animal-welfare-and-water-pollution-crimes-will-pay-more-35m>).

⁷⁶ USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 3.

insurance on crops that actually belonged to him.⁷⁷

- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, two farmers were sentenced to between 2 and 6 months in prison and ordered to pay over \$6.5 million for defrauding federal crop insurance programs by tampering with rain gauges to make it “appear that there was less precipitation in their area than actual rainfall totals,” thereby increasing their crop insurance payments.⁷⁸
- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to over 2 and a half years in prison for fraudulently selling over \$6.5 million worth of grain that he had falsely claimed was organic, and then concealing over \$1.3 million in income from IRS.⁷⁹
- Following a USDA-OIG joint investigation, an airline agreed to pay \$26.8 million to settle allegations that it collected travel fees from passengers and then failed to remit those fees worth at least \$62.2 million to appropriate agencies.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ *Id.*, at 5-6.

⁷⁸ USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7.

⁷⁹ *Id.*, at 11; Department of Justice, *Sigourney Man Sentenced to Mail Fraud and Defrauding the IRS* (Nov. 18, 2023) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdia/pr/sigourney-man-sentenced-mail-fraud-and-defrauding-irs>).

⁸⁰ USDA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 12.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Jill Baisinger

Appointed by President Biden
as Acting IG on May 1, 2024

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
24:1**



Commerce-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Inspections ⁸¹	\$1,382,604,533
Investigations ⁸²	\$31,404,637
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$1,414,009,170

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If Commerce were to implement all open recommendations from Commerce-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁸³:

\$1,673,257,925

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Commerce-OIG investigated several individuals who were sentenced to prison and ordered to pay over \$3 million in restitution for tampering with National

⁸¹ Includes questioned costs and funds put to better use. Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 33; Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 35.

⁸² Includes criminal, civil, and administrative recoveries. Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 5; Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 7.

⁸³ Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 44.

Weather Service rain gauges in order to fraudulently collect payments from crop insurance programs.⁸⁴

- Commerce-OIG investigated and substantiated allegations that an Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary retaliated against two Department whistleblowers who had made protected disclosures. Following OIG’s investigation, the Department terminated the Acting DAS.⁸⁵
- Commerce-OIG participated in a joint investigation into allegations that a sub-recipient of NOAA and NASA grants “failed to disclose his affiliations with and support from the People’s Republic of China” on three federal research grants. The sub-recipient agreed to pay over \$300,000 in grant funds.⁸⁶
- Commerce-OIG participated in a joint investigation into a fraudulent government procurement scheme in which Nigeria-based individuals impersonated Commerce procurement officials. OIG halted or recovered shipments valued over \$2 million.⁸⁷
- Commerce-OIG investigated a NOAA sub-grantee and found that it falsely certified its expenses, resulting in over \$3.1 million in disallowed costs.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 20.

⁸⁵ *Id.*, at 44.

⁸⁶ Commerce-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 5, 22.

⁸⁷ *Id.*, at 10.

⁸⁸ *Id.*, at 23.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Eric Soskin

Nominated by President Trump on Jun. 22, 2020
Confirmed as IG on Dec. 21, 2020

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

OIG's Return on Investment:
11:1



DOT-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ⁸⁹	\$1,185,608,935
Investigations ⁹⁰	\$55,779,008
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$1,241,387,943

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If DOT were to implement all open recommendations from DOT-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁹¹:

\$2,270,000,000

⁸⁹ Includes questioned costs and funds put to better use. DOT-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1; DOT-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1; DOT-OIG, *Information Toolkit* (Fiscal Year 2024), at 16.

⁹⁰ Includes forfeitures, recoveries, fines and special assessments, and restitution. DOT-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 4; DOT-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 4.

⁹¹ Memorandum from Mitch Behm, Acting Inspector General, DOT, to Russell T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget (Mar. 13, 2025), at 2; DOT-OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff.

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following a DOT-OIG investigation, an individual was sentenced to 6 months in prison “for obstructing a Federal investigation after recording a crash with the intent to make money, destroying the wreckage, and lying to investigators.”⁹²
- Following a DOT-OIG investigation, an asphalt company was fined \$6.5 million for scheming to rig bids for asphalt paving contracts.⁹³
- Following a DOT-OIG investigation, an individual was sentenced to 2 and a half years in prison “for brandishing a box cutter on a flight and stating the intention to stab someone. The individual charged toward a flight attendant before being subdued.”⁹⁴
- Following a DOT-OIG investigation, two individuals were sentenced to 3 and a half years in prison and ordered to pay over \$200,000 after they “purchased aircraft parts and resold them using false certificates claiming the parts to be airworthy.”⁹⁵
- Following a DOT-OIG investigation, an individual was sentenced to over 4 years in prison for paying over \$10,000 in cash bribes to a Commercial Diver’s License examiner to fraudulently issue passing scores on the exam.⁹⁶

⁹² DOT-OIG, *Information Toolkit* (Fiscal Year 2024), at 10.

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁹⁵ *Id.*

⁹⁶ *Id.*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Teri L. Donaldson

Nominated by President Trump on Jun. 11, 2018
Confirmed as IG on Jan. 2, 2019

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
9:1**



DOE-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Inspections ⁹⁷	\$823,333,478
Investigations ⁹⁸	\$25,051,285
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$848,384,763

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If DOE were to implement all open recommendations from DOE-OIG, the federal government could save up to⁹⁹:

\$301,541,484

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- DOE-OIG identified a grantee who was under investigation for illegally exporting semiconductor manufacturing equipment to a Chinese company,

⁹⁷ Includes unsupported costs, questioned costs, and funds put to better use. DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 2; DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 3.

⁹⁸ Includes fines, settlements, and recoveries. DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1; DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 2.

⁹⁹ DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 20.

resulting in DOE de-obligating \$100 million in grants to the company.¹⁰⁰

- DOE-OIG investigated a National Laboratory employee who was terminated after they attempted to board a flight to South Korea with proprietary nuclear reactor design software.¹⁰¹
- DOE-OIG investigated a DOE contractor who bribed a DOE procurement officer and sold counterfeit items to DOE that caused a fire at a facility, costing \$1.8 million in repairs.¹⁰²

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*, at 5.

¹⁰¹ DOE-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 4.

¹⁰² *Id.*, at 21.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Krista Boyd

Nominated by President Biden on Sep. 20, 2021
Confirmed as IG on Apr. 6, 2022

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
9:1**



OPM-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹⁰³	\$310,873,785
Investigations ¹⁰⁴	\$3,437,807
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$314,311,592

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If OPM were to implement all open recommendations from OPM-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹⁰⁵:

\$303,688,559

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- OPM-OIG uses the Do Not Pay system to “identify the vital status of annuitants and survivors who are deceased but who are still receiving annuity payments”

¹⁰³ Includes questioned costs. OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 42; OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 28-29.

¹⁰⁴ Includes administrative action, civil action, and criminal judgement/restitution. OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 37, 59; OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 25, 45.

¹⁰⁵ OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 30.

from federal programs. Through this work, OPM-OIG identified annuitants who are deceased but for whom OPM had made over \$1.6 million in improper payments.¹⁰⁶ This includes:

- the adult child of a deceased annuitant in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) who submitted fraudulent health claims after the annuitant's death that cost the government over \$340,000, and then “used the stolen government funds to write checks to cash or with notations such as ‘kitchen remodel,’ ‘Airbnb,’ and for other personal expenses.”¹⁰⁷
 - the daughter-in-law of a deceased annuitant who pled guilty and was ordered to repay over \$75,000 after she stole annuity payments that OPM continued to pay monthly for nearly 3 years after the annuitant's death.¹⁰⁸
- OPM-OIG investigated two medical providers who were each sentenced to 6 and a half years in prison for performing fake injections, by billing for certain injections when they had “only mimed injections” for the patients, costing the government over \$12 million.¹⁰⁹
- OPM-OIG debarred a laboratory owner from participating in FEHBP after he pled guilty to a conspiracy to pay illegal kickbacks for lab tests and was ordered to pay back over \$77 million.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ OPM-OIG response to the Committee (Feb. 7, 2025) (on file with the Committee).

¹⁰⁷ OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 13.

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*, at 16.

¹⁰⁹ *Id.*, at 14.

¹¹⁰ OPM-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 34.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Larry Turner

Nominated by President Biden on Jun. 8, 2021
Confirmed as IG on Dec. 2, 2021

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
3:1**



DOL-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹¹¹	\$129,565,581
Investigations ¹¹²	\$138,790,754
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$268,356,335

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If DOL were to implement all open recommendations from DOL-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹¹³:

\$75,677,203,834

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- As a result of a DOL-OIG joint investigation, a man was sentenced to seven years in prison for a COVID pandemic benefits fraud scheme, and separately

¹¹¹ Includes questioned costs. DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 93, 95; DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 95.

¹¹² Includes recoveries, cost-efficiencies, restitutions, fines/penalties, forfeitures, and civil monetary actions. DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 7, 128; DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 7, 119.

¹¹³ DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 107.

for defrauding elderly homeowners out of \$1.5 million “by appearing at their homes and falsely claiming that their roofs needed extensive repairs” and charging exorbitant fees despite performing minimal work.¹¹⁴

- DOL-OIG investigated another individual who was sentenced to 14 years in prison for pandemic-related unemployment insurance fraud and leading a fentanyl distribution ring.¹¹⁵
- DOL OIG conducted a joint investigation into a man who pled guilty to a \$6 million unemployment insurance fraud scheme.¹¹⁶
- DOL-OIG participated in an investigation into a La Cosa Nostra crime family member who was sentenced to over 4 years in prison and ordered to pay \$630,000 for a long-running extortion of a senior official at a labor union, including by threatening to “put him in the ground right in front of his wife and kids.”¹¹⁷

¹¹⁴ *Id.*, at 39.

¹¹⁵ *Id.*, at 41.

¹¹⁶ *Id.*, at 36.

¹¹⁷ DOL-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 58.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Rae Oliver Davis

Nominated by President Trump on Jun. 25, 2018
Confirmed as IG on Jan. 2, 2019

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
1.2:1**



HUD-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹¹⁸	\$111,908,966
Investigations ¹¹⁹	\$76,042,966
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$187,951,932

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If HUD were to implement all open recommendations from HUD-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹²⁰:

\$12,030,247,712

¹¹⁸ Includes recommended funds put to better use, questioned costs, and collections from audits. HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 5-6; HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 5-6; Email from HUD-OIG to Committee staff (Apr. 21, 2025) (on file with Committee).

¹¹⁹ Includes total restitution and judgments, and total recoveries/receivables to HUD programs. HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 5-6; HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 5-6; Email from HUD-OIG to Committee staff (Apr. 21, 2025) (on file with Committee).

¹²⁰ HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), Table A.

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- HUD-OIG investigated a Houston man who pled guilty to fraudulently applying for and receiving a \$314,000 newly-rebuilt home, using HUD relief funds intended for victims of Hurricane Harvey.¹²¹
- Following a HUD-OIG joint investigation, a San Francisco resident was sentenced to a year in prison and ordered to pay over \$340,000 for lying about his income to steal Section 8 funds intended for low-income families for over a decade, then using the funds to enrich himself, including on a timeshare in Hawaii.¹²²
- Following a HUD-OIG joint investigation, an individual pled guilty to defrauding elderly victims whose spouses or family members recently died of over \$100,000 by purporting to be an employee of retirement benefit offices or life insurance companies.¹²³
- Following a HUD-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 5 years in prison for falsely representing herself as a Certified Public Accountant and stealing over \$1.5 million from over 100 nonprofit clients, including schools and religious institutions.¹²⁴
- Following a HUD-OIG joint investigation, a former executive director and former asset manager for a public housing agency were collectively sentenced to over 20 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$3.2 million for “conducting a years-long illegal fraud scheme involving the issuance of [public housing agency] payments to four outside contractors for work that did not occur.”¹²⁵
- Following a HUD-OIG joint investigation, a loan originator was convicted in a \$2.6 million mortgage fraud scheme, in which he recruited buyers and caused

¹²¹ HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 26.

¹²² *Id.*, at 28; HUD-OIG, *San Francisco Resident Sentenced To One Year In Prison For Stealing Over \$340,000 In Funds Intended For Low-Income Families* (Sep. 11, 2024) (<https://www.hudoig.gov/newsroom/press-release/san-francisco-resident-sentenced-one-year-prison-stealing-over-340000-funds>).

¹²³ HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 17; HUD-OIG, *Atlantic City Woman Admits Defrauding Elderly Victims* (Nov. 17, 2023) (<https://www.hudoig.gov/newsroom/press-release/atlantic-city-woman-admits-defrauding-elderly-victims>).

¹²⁴ HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 16.

¹²⁵ HUD-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 18.

them to make false representations about their qualifications for federally-guaranteed mortgages, “and then pocketed payments from the sellers without notifying the lenders.”¹²⁶

¹²⁶ *Id.*, at 20-21.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Sandra Bruce

Nominated by President Biden on Jun. 17, 2021
Confirmed as IG on Dec. 2, 2021

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
1.5:1**



Education-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹²⁷	\$2,918,892
Investigations ¹²⁸	\$94,613,491
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$97,532,383

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If Education were to implement all open recommendations from Education-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹²⁹:

\$23,764,898

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Education-OIG contributed to an investigation into a former school district official who was sentenced to nearly 6 years in prison for embezzling over \$16.4 million from a school district where 81 percent of students are classified

¹²⁷ Includes questioned costs and unsupported costs. Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 49, 53; Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 59.

¹²⁸ Includes fines ordered, restitution payments ordered, civil settlements/judgments, recoveries, forfeitures/seizures, and administrative savings or cost avoidances. Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 50-51; Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 56.

¹²⁹ Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 63.

as socioeconomically disadvantaged. The official used the embezzled funds for “personal expenses, including a million-dollar home, an expensive car, luxury items, and cosmetic procedures.”¹³⁰

- Education-OIG contributed to an investigation into a former graduate school Assistant Dean and two former employees who pled guilty to embezzling over \$1.3 million from the school, including by “direct[ing] school vendors to order hundreds of thousands of dollars of gift cards and prepaid debit cards the conspirators used for their personal benefit.”¹³¹
- Following an Education-OIG investigation, a former school board president pled guilty to accepting bribes and two former company officials were sentenced for embezzling over \$491,000 and tax fraud, including fraudulently using funds for “vacations, gym memberships, and political contributions.”¹³²
- Education-OIG investigated an individual who pled guilty to a \$10.5 million student loan scheme, in which she deceived over 100 student loan borrowers and charged them fees, then submitted fraudulent applications for student loan discharges.¹³³
- Education-OIG investigated three people who pled guilty to using the identities of prison inmates to fraudulently obtain over \$980,000 in federal student aid.¹³⁴

¹³⁰ *Id.*, at 29.

¹³¹ *Id.*, at 19.

¹³² *Id.*, at 30.

¹³³ Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 19.

¹³⁴ Education-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 20-21.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Mark Greenblatt

Nominated by President Trump on Jan. 17, 2019
Confirmed as IG on Aug. 1, 2019

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
1.1:1**



DOI-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations ¹³⁵	\$13,895,123
Investigations ¹³⁶	\$59,908,738
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$73,803,861

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If DOI were to implement all open recommendations from DOI-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹³⁷:

\$57,226,535

¹³⁵ Includes questioned costs. DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 17, 100; DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 15, 18.

¹³⁶ Includes criminal restitutions, criminal fines, criminal special assessments, civil settlements, civil recoveries, recoveries of overpayments, administrative settlements, settlement agreements, and bills for collection. DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 9; DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 9.

¹³⁷ DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 15.

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- DOI-OIG contributed to an investigation into a contractor that admitted to a \$1.5 million bid-rigging and money laundering scheme.¹³⁸
- DOI-OIG contributed to an investigation of an individual sentenced to a year in prison for “selling low-quality ballistic protective equipment produced in China to dozens of law enforcement agencies and the U.S. military.”¹³⁹
- DOI-OIG investigated a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee who pled guilty to misusing their government travel card for personal expenses worth over \$37,000.¹⁴⁰
- DOI-OIG investigated a former Bureau of Land Management employee who was sentenced to over 2.5 years in prison for stealing money by forging government checks worth over \$10,000 and “used the stolen money for personal expenses including cash withdrawals, bills, restaurants, grocery stores and Amazon purchases.”¹⁴¹
- DOI-OIG investigated Hilcorp for knowingly avoiding paying its full royalties on federal leases, resulting in Hilcorp paying over \$44 million in settlements.¹⁴²
- DOI-OIG investigated four Alamo Navajo School Board members who defrauded the School Board out of nearly \$60,000 in federal funds for travel to meetings that never took place.¹⁴³
- As a result of a DOI-OIG investigation, a public water district manager pled guilty to illegally diverting over \$1.5 million worth of fresh water from a

¹³⁸ *Id.*, at 14; Department of Justice, *Contractor Admits Guilt in \$1.5 Million Bid-Rigging Scheme* (Jul. 10, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nm/pr/contractor-admits-guilt-15-million-bid-rigging-scheme>).

¹³⁹ DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 16.

¹⁴⁰ DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 14; DOI-OIG, *Former FWS Employee Misused Government Travel Credit Card for Personal Expenses* (Jun. 20, 2024) (<https://www.doi.gov/reports/investigation/former-fws-employee-misused-government-travel-credit-card-personal-expenses>).

¹⁴¹ DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 14; Department of Justice, *Ex-BLM employee sentenced to prison for stealing money by forging government checks* (Jun. 26, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/ex-blm-employee-sentenced-prison-stealing-money-forging-government-checks>).

¹⁴² DOI-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 12.

¹⁴³ *Id.*, at 10.

federally owned canal and selling it to farmers, and filing a false tax return.”¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*, at vii, 14; Department of Justice, *Former Water District General Manager Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Water Theft and Separate Tax Charge* (May 28, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edca/pr/former-water-district-general-manager-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-commit-water-theft-and>).

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Hon. Paul Martin

Nominated by President Biden on Jul. 26, 2023
Confirmed as IG on Dec. 18, 2023

Fired by President Trump on Feb. 11, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
0.8:1**



USAID-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹⁴⁵	\$46,795,078
Investigations ¹⁴⁶	\$16,463,665
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$63,258,743

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If USAID were to implement all open recommendations from USAID-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹⁴⁷:

\$54,669,539

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- USAID-OIG investigated a company in Lebanon that received USAID funding but had been trafficking Syrian refugee children to work at the company,

¹⁴⁵ Includes questioned costs. USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 12; USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 12.

¹⁴⁶ Includes criminal fines, restitutions, recoveries, assessments, or forfeitures; civil fines, restitutions, recoveries, penalties, damages, or forfeitures; non-judicial restitutions, recoveries, forfeitures, revocations, seizures, or settlements; and fraud loss prevented or saved based on investigative findings. USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 1, 33; USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 1, 40.

¹⁴⁷ USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), Appendixes at 87, 89, 100.

resulting in USAID terminating the subgrant and debaring the company and its owner for 2 years.¹⁴⁸

- USAID-OIG investigated a scam in which a malicious Meta user advertised fraudulent USAID grants of up to \$500,000 for companies in Gambia. USAID-OIG worked with Meta to remove the posts.¹⁴⁹
- USAID-OIG investigated and determined that the administrators of a displaced persons camp in Syria had diverted bread provided under a USAID award from the intended refugee families.¹⁵⁰
- Following a USAID-OIG investigation, USAID debarred an HIV care nurse for 5 years for using his position to sexually exploit and abuse a program beneficiary in Zimbabwe.¹⁵¹
- Following a USAID-OIG joint investigation, an individual pled guilty to the “theft and sale of hundreds of government-issued smartphones, laptop computers, and other IT devices” worth at least \$10,000 that he was supposed to securely dismantle and recycle in a responsible manner.¹⁵²

USAID-OIG Advisory Notice

Shortly after taking office, the Trump Administration (through Musk and DOGE) directed a pause to all foreign aid, suspended all USAID programs, closed its headquarters, and placed most of the USAID workforce on paid administrative leave.¹⁵³ On Feb. 10, 2025, USAID-OIG (then under the leadership of IG Paul Martin) issued an Advisory Notice that found that the USAID staffing reductions had “significantly impacted USAID’s capacity to disburse and safeguard its humanitarian assistance programming,” and had “limited [USAID’s] ability to

¹⁴⁸ USAID-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 34.

¹⁴⁹ *Id.*, at 32.

¹⁵⁰ *Id.*, at 33.

¹⁵¹ *Id.*, at 33.

¹⁵² USAID-OIG, *Guilty Plea in Theft and Sale of Hundreds of Government-Issued Phones and Computers Slated for Destruction* (Feb. 5, 2025) (<https://oig.usaid.gov/node/7425>).

¹⁵³ USAID-OIG, *Advisory Notice: Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance* (Feb. 10, 2025), at 1; *Judge finds Elon Musk and DOGE’s shutdown of USAID likely unconstitutional*, CBS News (Mar. 19, 2025) (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-finds-doges-usaid-shutdown-likely-unconstitutional/>); *USAID Director Purged For Refusing to Carry Out DOGE Firings*, Newsweek (Jan. 31, 2025) (<https://www.newsweek.com/usaid-director-purged-doge-firings-2024030>).

receive and respond to allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or diversion of humanitarian aid.”¹⁵⁴

The USAID-OIG Advisory Notice noted that the lack of clarity about the status of humanitarian assistance “put more than \$489 million of food assistance at ports, in transit, and in warehouses at risk of spoilage, unanticipated storage needs, and diversion.”¹⁵⁵ USAID-OIG also raised alarms about the potential for U.S. assistance to end up in the wrong hands:

the counter-terrorism vetting unit supporting humanitarian assistance programming has in recent days been told not to report to work (because staff have been furloughed or placed on administrative leave) and thus cannot conduct *any* partner vetting. This gap leaves USAID susceptible to inadvertently funding entities or salaries of individuals associated with U.S.-designated terrorist organizations.¹⁵⁶

The next day, on Feb. 11, 2025, President Trump fired IG Martin, and USAID-OIG staff were barred from accessing their office space by the General Services Administration, which houses investigative files among other things.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁴ USAID-OIG, *Advisory Notice: Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance* (Feb. 10, 2025), at 2, 4.

¹⁵⁵ *Id.*, at 3.

¹⁵⁶ *Id.*, at 4.

¹⁵⁷ *USAID IG fired day after report critical of impacts of Trump administration's dismantling of the agency*, CNN (Feb. 11, 2025) (<https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/11/politics/usaaid-inspector-general-fired-trump>).

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Sean O'Donnell

Nominated by President Trump on Oct. 15, 2019
Confirmed as IG on Dec. 19, 2019

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
2:1**



EPA-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits and Evaluations ¹⁵⁸	\$56,695,934
Investigations ¹⁵⁹	\$570,180
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$57,266,114

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If EPA were to implement all open recommendations from EPA-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹⁶⁰:

\$38,536,000

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, an individual pled guilty to making “fraudulent representations to make more than 22 million unregistered pesticide

¹⁵⁸ Includes funds put to better use. EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 50; EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 60.

¹⁵⁹ Includes criminal fines and recoveries, administrative recoveries, and cost savings. EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 47; EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 56.

¹⁶⁰ EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 10, 66.

wipes for a profit of more than \$1.2 million.”¹⁶¹

- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 10 months in prison and ordered to pay over \$326,000 for fraudulently changing information for over 3,700 vehicles that otherwise would have failed state emissions inspections.¹⁶²
- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, two individuals pled guilty to participating in a money laundering conspiracy involving over \$9.5 million in fraudulent proceeds, including from an environmental trust overseen by EPA.¹⁶³
- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, a former project manager for an environmental remediation company was ordered to pay a \$40,000 fine after pleading guilty to misleading federal authorities about lead contamination in a city park, and the project manager’s former employer also paid over \$2 million for the costs to remove lead contamination from the park.¹⁶⁴
- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, a former superintendent of a city wastewater treatment plant was sentenced to 3 months in prison for conspiring to employ a fraudulent water testing procedure.¹⁶⁵
- Following an EPA-OIG joint investigation, two individuals were each ordered to pay over \$800,000 for falsely claiming that EPA had tested and approved their antimicrobial cleaning product to eliminate the virus that causes COVID-19 for one year with a single application.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶¹ *Id.*, at 45.

¹⁶² *Id.*, at 42.

¹⁶³ *Id.*, at 46.

¹⁶⁴ EPA-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 37.

¹⁶⁵ *Id.*, at 38.

¹⁶⁶ *Id.*, at 37-38.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Hon. Cardell Richardson

Nominated by President Biden on Jul. 26, 2023
Confirmed as IG on May 2, 2024

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
3.6:1**



State-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹⁶⁷	\$819,201
Investigations ¹⁶⁸	\$43,732,893
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$44,552,094

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If State were to implement all open recommendations from State-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹⁶⁹:

\$238,638,207

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following a State-OIG joint investigation, a Nigerian national was sentenced to 5 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$5.6 million for his role in a “multi-

¹⁶⁷ Includes questioned costs and funds put to better use. State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 30; State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at i, 31-32.

¹⁶⁸ Includes civil settlements, cost recoveries, criminal forfeitures, fines and penalties, cost savings from funds put to better use, and restitutions. State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 3, 22, 37; State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at i, 25.

¹⁶⁹ State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 49-82.

million-dollar fraud scheme against victims in more than 20 countries.”¹⁷⁰

- Following a State-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 3 years in prison and ordered to pay \$900,000 for his involvement in “an international advance-fee scheme orchestrated from Nigeria that defrauded victims worldwide of over \$5.6 million.”¹⁷¹
- Following a State-OIG joint investigation, the owner of a construction company was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$24 million for his role in a 25-year fraud on the federal government in which he induced the State Department to award “\$100 million in lucrative construction contracts to his company” and engaged in bribery.¹⁷²
- Following a State-OIG joint investigation, the State Department terminated and revoked the security clearances from five locally-employed staff at a U.S. embassy after OIG determined they had accepted bribes totaling over \$11,000 and lied to investigators.¹⁷³
- An individual was sentenced to a year in prison after State-OIG determined that he had falsely obtained a new passport and fled to South America after he was ordered to surrender his passport when he was charged with sexual assault of a child.¹⁷⁴
- Following a State-OIG joint investigation, an individual was ordered to pay over \$184,000 for participating in a conspiracy scheme to “steal property at a U.S. military installation, to include night vision devices, and sell them to prohibited international buyers.”¹⁷⁵

¹⁷⁰ *Id.*, at 27.

¹⁷¹ *Id.*, at 27.

¹⁷² State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 24.

¹⁷³ State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 27.

¹⁷⁴ State-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 24.

¹⁷⁵ *Id.*, at 23-24.

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Loren Sciorba

Began performing the functions and
duties of the IG in Dec. 2024

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025ⁱ

**OIG's Return on Investment:
33:1**

ⁱWhen President Trump fired the initial 18 Inspectors General, Treasury-OIG did not have a confirmed IG and was under the leadership of Deputy IG Loren Sciorba, a career official performing the functions and duties of the IG. Treasury-OIG reported to the Committee that on Jan. 24, 2025, the White House sent an email to Mr. Sciorba seeking to remove him as IG, but as Treasury-OIG noted, "this is a position Mr. Sciorba has not held, and does not currently hold, even in an Acting capacity." Treasury-OIG explained that situation to the White House and requested clarification, but received none. As such, Mr. Sciorba has continued as Deputy IG performing the functions and duties of the IG. (Treasury-OIG response to the Committee (Feb. 7, 2025) (on file with the Committee).)

Treasury-OIG's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits ¹⁷⁶	\$1,292,965
Investigations ¹⁷⁷	\$22,108,838
<hr/>	
Total Monetary Impact.....	\$23,401,803

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If Treasury were to implement all open recommendations from Treasury-OIG, the federal government could save up to¹⁷⁸:

\$2,237,683,672

¹⁷⁶ Includes questioned costs. Treasury-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at i, 21, 49; Treasury-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at i, 31, 60.

¹⁷⁷ Includes fines, restitution, and court fees. Treasury-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Spring 2024), at 21; Treasury-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 31.

¹⁷⁸ Treasury-OIG, *Semiannual Report to Congress* (Fall 2024), at 32-52.

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following a Treasury-OIG joint investigation, two individuals were sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$3 million after they conspired to steal a withdrawal check from a federal retirement program and tax refund checks.¹⁷⁹
- Following a Treasury-OIG joint investigation, an individual was sentenced to 2 years in prison and ordered to pay \$183,000 for defrauding a mortgage lender into agreeing to a pre-foreclosure sale.¹⁸⁰
- Following a Treasury-OIG investigation, an individual was sentenced to 3 years in prison and ordered to pay \$200,000 for fraudulently obtaining a disaster loan and two Paycheck Protections Program loans despite being debarred from receiving federal contracts.¹⁸¹
- Following a Treasury-OIG investigation, two contractors agreed to pay \$11 million for failing to abide by requirements in New York's Emergency Rental Assistance program.¹⁸²

¹⁷⁹ *Id.*, at 29.

¹⁸⁰ *Id.*, at 26.

¹⁸¹ *Id.*, at 28.

¹⁸² *Id.*, at 27.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

John Sopko

Appointed by President Obama
as IG on Jul. 2, 2012

Fired by President Trump on Jan. 24, 2025

**OIG's Return on Investment:
6:1**



SIGAR's FY 2024 Monetary Impact

Audits¹⁸³ \$4,871,441

Total Monetary Impact..... \$4,871,441

Potential Savings from Unimplemented Recommendations

If federal agencies were to implement all open recommendations from SIGAR, the federal government could save up to¹⁸⁴:

\$4,670,000

Recent Examples of Enforcement Actions

- Following a SIGAR investigation, the Treasury Department sanctioned two former Afghan government officials for “widespread involvement in international corruption,” including artificially inflating the price of their fuel

¹⁸³ Includes questioned costs. SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Jan. 30, 2024), at iv; SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Apr. 30, 2024), at iv; SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Jul. 30, 2024), at iii; SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Oct. 30, 2024), at iv. SIGAR had no investigative monetary impact in FY 2024 (SIGAR FY 2024 *Quarterly Reports*; Email from SIGAR to Committee staff (Apr. 16, 2025) (on file with Committee)).

¹⁸⁴ Email from SIGAR to Committee staff (Apr. 16, 2025) (on file with Committee).

contracts with the U.S. by over \$200 million and “bribing their way into seats in the Afghan Parliament, where they used their positions to perpetuate their corruption.”¹⁸⁵

- Following a SIGAR joint investigation, an individual was convicted of a years-long bribery scheme in which he made false statements on multiple letters of recommendation for Afghan nationals seeking visas who he had falsely claimed to have supervised while deployed to Afghanistan, in exchange for monetary payments.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁵ SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Jan. 30, 2024), at 105.

¹⁸⁶ SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* (Oct. 30, 2024), at 89-90; Department of Justice, *U.S. Navy Reserve Officer Convicted for Bribery Scheme Impacting Department of State’s Approval Process for Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Nationals* (Jul. 12, 2024) (<https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/us-navy-reserve-officer-convicted-bribery-scheme-impacting-department-states-approval>).

OIG STAFF IMPACTS

The Committee received briefings with OIGs to discuss ongoing and planned work in the wake of the IGs' firings. The OIGs emphasized that they are continuing their work to root out fraud, waste, and abuse, and that the career auditors, evaluators, and investigators are dedicated to that mission. However, many OIGs reported concerns about their independence and morale, as well as challenges related to staffing.

As required by law – and established through decades of robust standards and practices – OIGs are nonpartisan, and their work is not political. However, many OIGs expressed reservations about speaking out publicly or even the appearance of political bias. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution to address these OIGs' concerns, protect their nonpartisan status, and take steps to guard against the risk of illegal retaliation – and in light of the fact that the President already fired 19 IGs – the information below is being reported anonymously.

Independence and Morale

- When Committee staff asked an OIG about what effect President Trump's firing of the former IG had, OIG staff stated that while they continue to conduct their work in accordance with Federal standards, the firing of the IG was "clearly a morale hit, as well as the uncertainty as to quite frankly whether we will continue to exist, whether the department will continue to exist, and what resources we will have going forward."¹⁸⁷

When asked to expand on the current state of morale within OIG, these OIG staff stated, "honestly, how high could the morale be? I think it's as high as it could reasonably expected to be considering where we are," referring to the firing of the IG and the uncertainty of the future of the Department.¹⁸⁸

Regarding reforms that might be necessary to support Inspectors General, OIG staff observed, "until recently we would've assumed that what was in the IG Act was sufficient to ensure or exercise our authority in any situation," but that further explicit protections for the independence of Inspectors General may be necessary.¹⁸⁹

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- After one briefing, the Committee spoke separately with an anonymous whistleblower at one OIG who stated the removal of the former IG and other developments is "impacting morale, productivity, and independence" at this OIG.¹⁹⁰ This individual stated the firing was an "absolutely devastating loss, immediately followed by people being terrified to do their work,

¹⁸⁷ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

¹⁸⁸ *Id.*

¹⁸⁹ *Id.*

¹⁹⁰ Email from OIG employee to Committee staff (on file with Committee).

[...] speak up, give new ideas, report anything unfavorably on the agency, [or] disagree [with] DOGE.”¹⁹¹

This OIG employee also stated, “We felt protected doing our work because of the IG Act, and the firing of the IGs and the lack of congressional response has told us that the IG Act doesn’t protect us at all. So we now have to do our work based on who’s in power. [...] Everybody here is operating out of fear of being fired at any time.”¹⁹²

This whistleblower told the Committee that for this particular OIG, “People are feeling like their work is totally halted,” with “historically low work output.”¹⁹³ This individual also stated “there’s a lack of transparency” regarding this OIG’s interactions with DOGE, and that “we were told OIG wasn’t going to do anything to contradict DOGE.”¹⁹⁴

The Committee spoke with another anonymous whistleblower from this same OIG who reiterated these concerns, stating “Morale is basically in the toilet, everybody is terrified that they’re getting fired. [...] It’s terrible, morale is very low [...] and I attribute that to the Trump Administration, I attribute that to DOGE, I attribute that to the fact that everybody is afraid of losing their job.”¹⁹⁵

This second OIG employee further stated that “losing [the former IG] was a huge hit to morale. [...] When we got someone who was a staunch proponent of the law and valued our independence and valued our work, it was very exciting and good for us, and then he was just ripped away – no explanation, no plan of action, just gone.”¹⁹⁶ Looking forward, this OIG employee stated, “My biggest concern is that we have no independence.”¹⁹⁷

The Committee obtained internal communications from several all-hands meetings at this same OIG held in the days and weeks following the IG’s removal. In those meetings, OIG staff stated, “this is a terrible loss to us, and IG community,” and told the former IG “Thank you for fighting for our independence and for your efforts to improve our agency. This is heartbreaking.”¹⁹⁸ OIG staff asked questions to their leadership about whether DOGE would have input into the audits and investigations OIG staff perform moving forward, stating “Their level of involvement really hasn’t been made clear.”¹⁹⁹

¹⁹¹ Interview with OIG employee (on file with Committee).

¹⁹² *Id.*

¹⁹³ *Id.*

¹⁹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁹⁵ Interview with OIG employee (on file with Committee).

¹⁹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁹⁸ Email from OIG employee to Committee staff (on file with Committee); OIG, All Hands Meeting (on file with Committee).

¹⁹⁹ *Id.*

- In a separate briefing, when Committee staff asked another OIG about the extent to which OIG staff feel independent and protected in their work, OIG staff stated that while they have full confidence in the professionalism and impartiality of their workforce, career employees have raised concerns: “Folks are rattled. [...] I’ve never heard a line-level auditor say ‘should I be worried about my job... Is someone going to post my family on X...’ These are questions that have never been asked, because frankly they were unthinkable.”²⁰⁰

Committee staff asked this same OIG about the impact of President Trump’s firing of USAID IG Paul Martin, which appeared to be in retaliation for issuing an alert about potential costs associated with cancelation of USAID programs and reductions in staff. OIG staff responded that, “USAID was not lost on [us]—everyone down to our entry-level auditors saw that and took what they would from it. [We are trying] to reassure them and to lead the organization. It’s not a comfortable position to be in, but IG work sometimes is uncomfortable.”²⁰¹

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- When asked to expand on the current state of morale, staff at one OIG stated, “I have to be frank, morale has been challenged for sure. [...] [We] have to step in and remind staff how valuable they are in their oversight activities.”²⁰²

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- Another OIG stated regarding the firing of the former IG, “It was a total surprise” and that “[the IG] was critical to our operations.” Another staffer at this OIG stated, “I would agree. It was a shock to the system. [...] I think staff was certainly saddened and morale was affected.”²⁰³ When asked to expand on the current state of morale, OIG stated that the career staff continue to follow their mission, but noted, “They are not immune to the fear of losing their jobs. So yes I think there certainly is an impact on the productivity of the Audit staff compared to 3 months ago, 6 months ago.”²⁰⁴

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- Regarding the effect that President Trump’s firing of the former IG had, another OIG told Committee staff that OIG career staff have continued their work, but noted, “It’s mostly a fear issue for our staff – I think it’s uncertainty. When there’s uncertainty, people get scared. [...] it was hard, it was pretty abrupt.”²⁰⁵ Regarding working with their Agency/Department, OIG told Committee staff that “something we’re prepared to do, if and when necessary, is to

²⁰⁰ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025); Email from OIG to Committee staff (May 2025) (on file with Committee).

²⁰¹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²⁰² OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²⁰³ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²⁰⁴ *Id.*

²⁰⁵ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

assert our independence.”²⁰⁶

- When Committee staff asked OIG about the current state of morale within OIG, staff at one OIG stated, “there have been a lot of changes, a lot of transition, but look, our people are here because they love the mission. [...] Our people are getting up in the morning to do good government oversight, because that’s what they care about.”²⁰⁷ When asked about whether OIG is taking any new actions to ensure its continued independence more broadly, this OIG stated that it was not taking any different actions but noted, “Independence is of the utmost concern.”²⁰⁸
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- One particular OIG stated that while their work had continued after the former IG’s firing, “Morale was primarily the highest impact,” and that the failure to provide Congress with the 30-day notice before terminating the IG (as required by law) was “concerning.”²⁰⁹ OIG staff further stated the IG’s firing “was also very abrupt” and that “the first couple weeks were somewhat chaotic to get our bearings in terms of what was coming next.”²¹⁰
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- Staff at another OIG noted they have continued executing their work but stated, “it’s never easy when your leadership is removed. I think that it is, in some ways, a destabilizing force.”²¹¹
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- Another OIG stated “Obviously it was a shock when it happened” but that “it hasn’t changed our ability to do our work.”²¹² When asked by Committee staff about the broader challenges they face now, OIG staff noted they are “adjusting to change and making sure staff feel protected and safe, [and] making sure we’re carrying out our missions.”²¹³
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- Describing the effect of the former IG’s firing, staff at another OIG stated “Initially, shock. We didn’t expect him to be one of the IGs to go. And I think [the IG] was pretty surprised[.]”
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²⁰⁶ *Id.*

²⁰⁷ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²⁰⁸ *Id.*

²⁰⁹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹⁰ *Id.*

²¹¹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹² OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹³ *Id.*

The work we do is bipartisan.”²¹⁴

When asked by Committee staff about the extent to which OIG staff feel independent and protected in their work, this OIG stated, “I think the feeling is, ‘oops, are we the next to go?’ [...] there is uncertainty, in terms of where’s the next shoe to drop.”²¹⁵

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- Staff at another OIG reported to the Committee that, although the former IG had been fired, “our work continues unfettered.”²¹⁶ Regarding OIG’s independence going forward, OIG staff told Committee staff, “We’re very attuned to any potential impediments to our work.”²¹⁷
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- When asked by Committee staff about challenges they face in carrying out their mission to fight fraud, waste, and abuse, another OIG said that the career staff are continuing to do their work but pointed to “keeping people’s morale up in a time that’s pretty challenging.”²¹⁸
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Staffing

- Regarding the Trump Administration’s government-wide staffing cuts, staff at one OIG stated that they lost several dozen employees to the deferred resignation program, which will have a “significant impact” on OIG’s ability to oversee the Department. However, OIG staff explained that due to the design of the deferred resignation program, “When I say we lost people, I have to chuckle, because they’re still on the books so we’re still paying them even though they’re not doing the work.”²¹⁹
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- When asked by Committee staff about the impact the Trump Administration’s recent government-wide staffing cuts had on OIG, another OIG stated, “we’ve had a lot of turnover [...] Since January 20th we have lost 20 percent of our workforce” including about 50 percent of OIG’s senior leadership team. OIG indicated that further staff reductions would

²¹⁴ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹⁵ *Id.*

²¹⁶ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹⁷ *Id.*

²¹⁸ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²¹⁹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

potentially affect their ability to perform audits and investigations.²²⁰

- Another OIG told Committee staff that due to the Trump Administration’s recent government-wide staffing cuts, they lost over a dozen employees to the deferred resignation program, and are unable to backfill certain positions due to the hiring freeze. OIG staff stated, “If we had more people, could we do more investigations, could we put more bad guys in jail? Absolutely.”²²¹
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- Staff at an OIG stated that they received funding to conduct oversight of a recently enacted assistance program, and that while that work is ongoing, the “Executive Order on the hiring freeze kind of clipped us” in staffing up.²²²
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- When asked by Committee staff about whether the government-wide staffing cuts now being implemented by the Trump Administration and the so-called “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) are affecting their work, one OIG reported, “we have an aggressive audit plan, and [may have] 10-15 percent less people to do it. So that’s a challenge.” As a result, OIG indicated they might not be able to complete all of their planned audits this year.²²³
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- Regarding the Trump Administration’s recent government-wide staffing cuts such as the deferred resignation program, staff at an OIG told Committee staff that they were anticipating losing dozens of employees, “and that is going to affect us.”²²⁴ Looking forward, OIG staff stated, “we are going to continue doing the quality work that we’ve been doing. It may be less compared to what we’ve been doing, but I’m never going to compromise the quality.”²²⁵
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²²⁰ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025); Email from OIG to Committee staff (May 2025) (on file with Committee).

²²¹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²²² OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Apr. 2025).

²²³ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²²⁴ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²²⁵ *Id.*

- One OIG indicated that they lost several dozen employees to the Trump Administration’s deferred resignation program and said that some “were probationary [employees] and they were afraid so they took” the offer.²²⁶
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- Another OIG indicated that they lost over a dozen employees due to the Trump Administration’s recent deferred resignation program, as well as hiring actions that were paused during the government-wide hiring freeze. When combined with the previous year’s reduced budget, attrition, and retirements, these changes resulted in a 30 percent reduction in staff.²²⁷ OIG stated, “We continue to find ways to do more with less” and that “We’d always like to do more oversight work. [The agency we oversee] is a huge organization.”²²⁸
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- An OIG told Committee staff that due to the Administration’s recent government-wide staffing cuts such as the deferred resignation program and voluntary early retirement, OIG has had a 15 percent reduction in staff, including criminal investigators that could slow down some OIG activities.²²⁹
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- Another OIG said they had been affected by the Trump Administration’s government-wide staffing cuts and hiring freeze, and when combined with changes at the Department they oversee, OIG staff noted, “there’s a significant amount of uncertainty about what the future holds.”²³⁰

²²⁶ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²²⁷ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025); Email from OIG to Committee staff (May 2025) (on file with Committee).

²²⁸ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

²²⁹ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Apr. 2025).

²³⁰ OIG briefing with bipartisan Committee staff (Mar. 2025).

CONCLUSION

If President Trump and Musk were truly interested in identifying potential savings in the federal government, they would leverage the work that has already been done by Inspectors General. Collectively, these 19 IGs had a monetary impact of over \$50 billion in FY 2024 alone, through recommendations for potential savings in government programs and investigative recoveries. If federal agencies were to act on all of these IGs' recommendations that remain open to date, the federal government could save over \$175 billion.

Instead of leveraging their work, President Trump fired them – demonstrating how much he values independent oversight. These OIGs are still staffed by competent professionals, and they continue their critical work to root out fraud, waste, and abuse. However, President Trump's firing of their leadership puts that work at risk, undermines the independence of these nonpartisan watchdogs, and sends a message of intimidation to anyone else who was considering criticizing this Administration.

The so-called Department of Government Efficiency – a duplicative sham from the start – has failed in its own self-declared goals. Rather than slashing vital services in the name of eliminating “waste” and instilling a sense of fear of retaliation, President Trump should empower and elevate independent oversight through the Inspectors General.