



July 9, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on the  
Legislative Branch  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on the  
Legislative Branch  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray, Chair Mullin and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center and its (c)(4) affiliate, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, we write to encourage the Legislative Branch Subcommittee to maintain funding levels that provide adequate resources for Congress to legislate effectively, monitor the expenditure of taxpayer funds, and ensure federal programs are implemented efficiently and within the confines of Congress's intent. To this end, it is vital that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) continues to be funded at current levels so it can perform its mission to support Congress.

The current policy environment demands a robust and active legislative branch to address the many challenges facing the nation. Rapidly rising debt and interest payments are slowing growth and making it more expensive for Americans to buy cars and homes, attend college, or pay off credit cards. To achieve fiscal sustainability, BPC recommends a continuation of the 2023 discretionary caps, enactment of program integrity reforms, and—outside the appropriations process—legislation to reduce the growth of mandatory program spending and increase federal revenue.

GAO is critical to these goals. As you know, the agency, which works directly for Congress, is responsible for conducting financial audits, evaluating federal program performance,

providing legal opinions, and maintaining the integrity of federal contracts by adjudicating bid protests. The agency has also developed, at Congress' direction, a Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA) division to better inform the lawmaking process in these crucial policy areas. With its unique insights across government, GAO has identified trillions of dollars' worth of savings opportunities resulting from waste, fraud, and abuse. In 2024 alone, its work yielded \$67.5 billion in savings.<sup>1</sup> In terms of return on investment, that equates to \$76 returned for every dollar of its \$900 million budget.

GAO also assists Congress in ensuring that appropriated funds are utilized as intended. Under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, GAO reviews executive branch budget allocations and reports to Congress if it believes an inappropriate impoundment has occurred. GAO is also empowered to bring civil action in the event of an impoundment to ensure the executive branch complies with existing law. While such lawsuits are not generally ideal for the accommodation typical of legislative-executive negotiations over spending, the authority to bring such lawsuits is a necessary deterrent for maintaining Congress's prerogatives.

We also believe GAO can do more to serve Congress as the regulatory and lawmaking environments undergo significant change. Recent Supreme Court decisions, including in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, which overturned what was known as "Chevron deference," have implications for the legislative process and congressional capacity. Now, Congress will need to legislate with increased specificity and precision when delegating authority to the executive branch. BPC's [Working Group on Congress, Courts, and Administrative Law](#)—comprised of former elected officials, congressional staff, regulators, and other experts—recently concluded that, in light of these decisions, Congress must improve the quality of the legislation it drafts and increase its knowledge about how agencies and courts interpret laws.<sup>2</sup> Given its track record of providing trusted, nonpartisan advice to Congress and its impressive legal and analytical capabilities, the working group believes that GAO plays an essential role in filling these gaps.

For over a century, GAO has grown into an indispensable part of the legislative branch, helping ensure Congress can effectively carry out its responsibilities under the Constitution. We respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee maintain the agency's current funding levels while working with GAO to improve the agency's responsiveness and expand its mission of serving Congress.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/about/what-gao-does/performance>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/final-report-and-recommendations/>



Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Anna Przebinda, Manager for BPC Action, at [aprzebinda@bpcaction.org](mailto:aprzebinda@bpcaction.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Stockwell".

Michele Stockwell  
President,  
Bipartisan Policy Center Action

