

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

July 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Protect the U.S. Government Accountability Office**

Dear Speaker Johnson and Chairman Cole:

We write to express deep concern regarding the proposed \$396.5 million cut to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. This unprecedented reduction in funding – nearly 50 percent – would severely diminish GAO’s capacity to serve Congress, the federal government, and the American people.

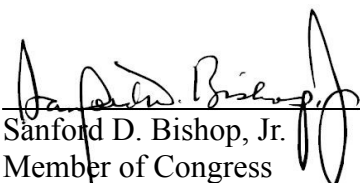
There is strong support – from both lawmakers and the public – for making government more efficient, effective, and accountable – and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse. But these goals cannot be met by decimating the very agency that helps identify and address inefficiencies in government. The GAO is a trusted, nonpartisan watchdog, and the results speak for themselves. Since 2002, GAO’s oversight has resulted in \$1.45 trillion in financial benefits to the federal government, including \$67.5 billion just last year.<sup>1</sup>

Cutting GAO’s budget in half would significantly weaken its ability to deliver future savings throughout the government. The proposed funding reduction would result in a loss of more than 2,200 expert staff,<sup>2</sup> hamstringing critical oversight work, eliminate technical assistance to Congress, and delay or cancel ongoing investigations. Congress should be investing more in GAO’s work – not less.

We cannot fight waste, fraud, and abuse by gutting the one agency most responsible for uncovering it. We all want to make government work better – and that requires ensuring the GAO has the resources it needs to continue its work for the American people. As such, we urge you to reverse these cuts to GAO, and work with Members of both parties to preserve full funding going forward.

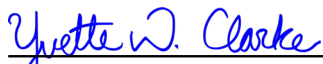
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress

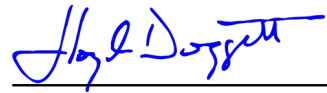
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/assets/880/873251.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://punchbowl.news/article/senate/gop-eyes-medicaid-cut-delays>



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



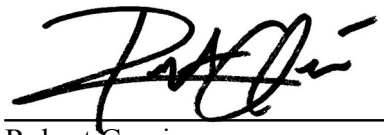
Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress




Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



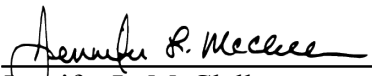
Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



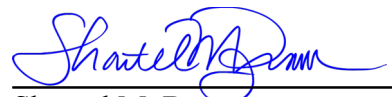
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



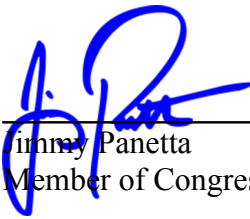
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



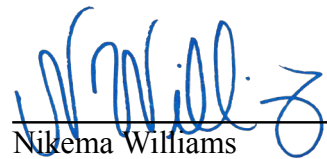
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



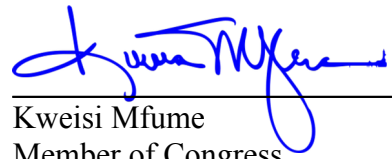
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



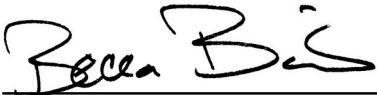
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



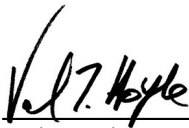
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



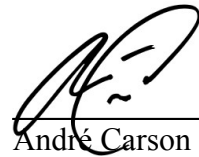
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



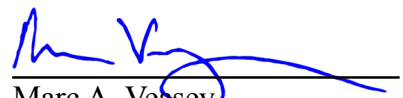
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



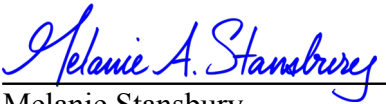
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



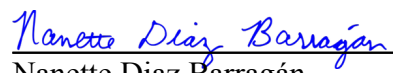
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



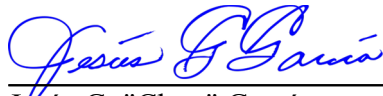
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



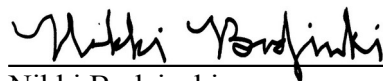
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



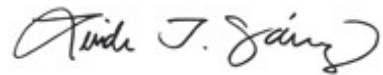
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



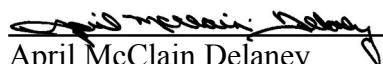
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress




Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



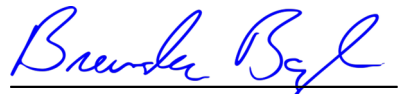
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



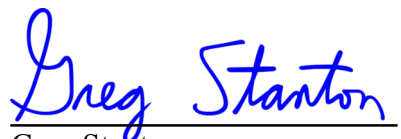
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress




Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress




Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress




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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress




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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress




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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress




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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



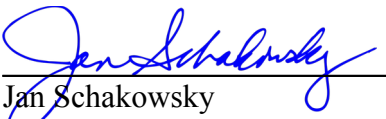
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Pablo José Hernández  
Member of Congress



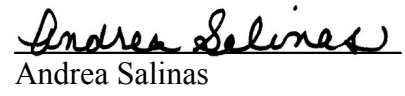
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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



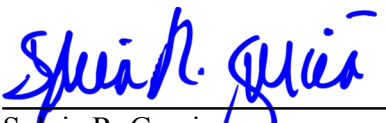
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress




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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



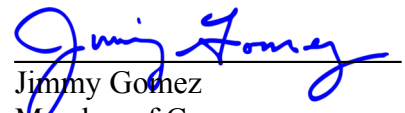
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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress




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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress

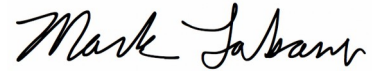


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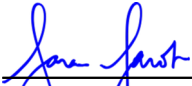
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



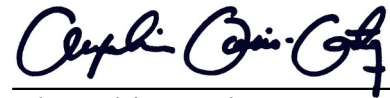
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



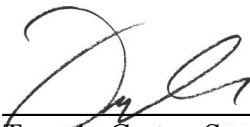
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



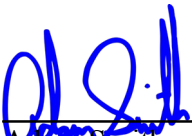
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



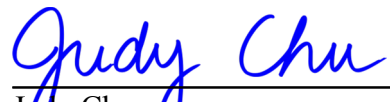
Froy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



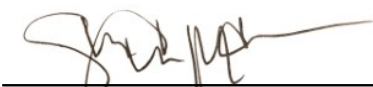
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



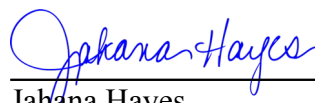
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Nellye Pou  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



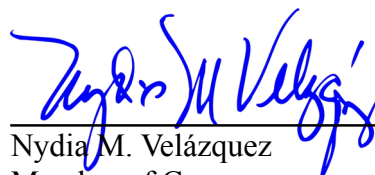
LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



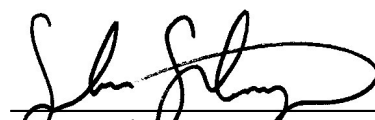
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

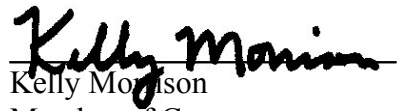


Al Green  
Member of Congress





Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress