

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write with deep concern over the reported firings of 17 non-partisan, independent Inspector Generals. These summary dismissals raise public and congressional concern that independent oversight of federal agencies is under attack. Moreover, Congress did not receive 30-day notice and explanation of the specific reasons for these terminations, as required by law.

The work of Inspectors General is critical to ensuring effectiveness and efficiency across the federal government and to preventing and detecting fraud and abuse where it occurs. That work leads to tremendous cost savings—according to the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, in fiscal year 2023, federal Offices of Inspectors General saved taxpayers over \$93 billion dollars.¹ In addition to rooting out fiscal waste, Inspectors General ensure the government is both accountable and transparent by combatting abuse of power and corruption.

In recognition of this important work, Congress passed a series of laws to ensure transparency and to avoid any appearance of impropriety in the selection and removal of Inspectors General. The bipartisan *Inspector General Reform Act of 2008*, signed into law by President Bush, provided that Inspectors General be appointed “without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability[.]” It further required the President to communicate in writing the reasons for removing or transferring an Inspector General 30 days before the action is taken.² In 2022, Congress amended the law to further incorporate provisions of the bipartisan *Securing Inspector General Independence Act* that require a more specific explanation where an Inspector General is removed—a “substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons[.]”³ Additionally, where an Inspector General position is vacant, federal law requires that a first assistant will immediately step into the role as Acting Inspector General, unless the President directs an “officer or employee” of any office of an Inspector General to

¹ Annual Report to the President and Congress FY 2023, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

² Inspector General Reform Act of 2009, Public Law 110-409.

³ Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2022, Public Law 117-263.

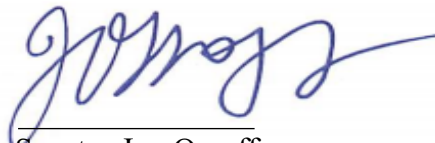
perform in an acting capacity.⁴ These statutory requirements reflect Congress's interest in ensuring a transparent and fair replacement process.

Despite these requirements, Congress did not receive proper advance notice and a substantive, case-specific rationale for the recent Inspectors General terminations. The lack of notice and explanation has raised reasonable questions among Members of Congress and the public about the bases for these removals.

It is for these reasons I ask you to rescind these terminations and provide the complete 30-day notice to Congress on each of these firings, as the law requires.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Ossoff", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Senator Jon Ossoff

⁴ *Id.*