



**COUNCIL for  
CITIZENS  
AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT  
WASTE**

**Thomas A. Schatz, *President***  
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May 6, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Representative,

You will soon be considering the Improper Payments Transparency Act. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal government made \$236 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2023. The GAO also estimates that since FY 2003, the federal government has made \$2.7 trillion in improper payments. Improper payments include overpayments, underpayments, and payments that were made to people who should not have received them.

Despite this persistent problem and prior attempts to reduce improper payments, there are still gaps in how they are reported by federal agencies. The Improper Payments Transparency Act would fill these gaps by requiring the President's budget request to include details on why improper payments occurred, steps federal agencies are taking to reduce improper payments, and the status of the steps that are being taken. This bill would provide more accurate details on the extent of improper payments and why these mistakes occurred, which will help Congress and the federal agencies in detecting, reducing, and preventing improper payments.

Improper payments are a clear example of waste and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars that needs to be addressed. The Improper Payments Transparency Act would help increase transparency and take steps to reduce and prevent improper payments from occurring in the future. For these reasons, I urge you to support the Improper Payments Transparency Act. All votes related to the Improper Payments Transparency Act may be among those considered for CCAGW's *2024 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

*Tom Schatz*