House Budget Committee

SOUNDING THE ALARM:

$420 Billion in COVID Aid Wasted on Fraud and Abuse, New Report Finds

In the name of "COVID relief," President Biden and Congressional Democrats jammed through the nearly $2 trillion partisan American Rescue Plan Act. Congressional Republicans requested critical safeguards such as theft protection and identity verification for business loans and unemployment funds, yet the Democrat majority wouldn't allow it.

A new report finds that **$420 billion in tax dollars intended for COVID relief was lost to waste, fraud, and abuse.**

Conducted by the Associated Press, they found:

- **Billions Stolen, Wasted, or Misspent, and still Counting**: "…Fraudsters potentially stole more than $280 billion in COVID-19 relief funding; another $123 billion was wasted or misspent. Combined, the loss represents 10% of the $4.2 trillion the U.S. government has so far disbursed in COVID relief aid. That number is certain to grow as investigators dig deeper into thousands of potential schemes."
- **Treasury Department Did Not Complete Basic Background Checks:** "Federal loan applicants weren't cross-checked against a Treasury Department database that would have raised red flags about sketchy borrowers."
- **A Century's Worth of Work Just to Catch Up**: "The office of the Small Business Administration Inspector General has a backlog of more than 80,000 actionable leads, close to a 100 years' worth of work."
- **Rampant Fraud in Unemployment Programs**: "Fraud in pandemic unemployment assistance programs stands at $76 billion, according to congressional testimony from Labor Department Inspector General Larry Turner. Another $115 billion mistakenly went to people who should not have received the benefits, according to his testimony."

House Budget Committee Republicans have been leading the charge to stop the Biden policies that grow the bloated bureaucracy and that would continue to waste American's hard-earned dollars on woke and wasteful programs. We will continue to fight for accountability against this Administration's reckless spending spree that is benefiting fraudsters at the expense of taxpayers.

Read the full article here.