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One Hundred Nineteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 225-8281 | CHA.HOUSE.GOV

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October 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Thune,

I write regarding the Trump Administration's decision to defund the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and its impact on the Legislative Branch.

Congress established CIGIE in 2008 to serve as the umbrella organization for all 72 federal Offices of Inspector General (OIG). CIGIE is the "watchdog of the watchdogs," ensuring accountability within OIGs. It also provides key trainings, standards, and approaches to OIGs, assists whistleblowers, and serves as a clearinghouse for OIG reports that document fraud, waste, or abuse across the government. Although Congress already appropriated FY 2026 funds for CIGIE,¹ the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has inexplicably ignored congressional intent and failed to apportion those funds as required, effectively defunding the agency.

The Administration's refusal to fund CIGIE is already creating serious consequences. Whistleblower portals have been shuttered, mechanisms for OIG accountability have been eliminated, and Oversight.gov—the CIGIE-hosted repository for all public OIG reports—has been taken offline.

Even though CIGIE is part of the Executive Branch, Oversight.gov is used to host Legislative Branch OIG reports. As a result, reports documenting fraud, waste, and abuse in our own Legislative Branch agencies are no longer publicly available. Congress is a co-equal branch of government, wholly independent from the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch's failure to provide duly appropriated funds to CIGIE should not impede Congress's ability to provide transparency about the Legislative Branch.

¹ Notably, because FY 2026 funds have already been appropriated, the current lapse in appropriations is not the cause of this funding issue.

Accordingly, I request that you to work with the House Chief Administrative Officer and the Senate Sergeant at Arms to establish a dedicated platform to host Legislative Branch OIG reports.

Finally, I must underscore the flagrant hypocrisy of defunding CIGIE. At the same time the Administration is invoking exaggerated and false claims of fraud, waste, and abuse to justify dismantling vital Executive Branch agencies, it is also silencing the independent watchdogs best equipped to expose actual misconduct. Creating a dedicated platform for Legislative Branch OIG reports would be a modest but essential step to ensure that Congress is transparent with the American people and accountable for the agencies we oversee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Morelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member