

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6074
MINORITY (202) 225-6051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 12, 2026

Ms. Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating reports of widespread waste, fraud, and abuse across a multitude of federally funded benefits programs that are managed by individual states and territories. Our investigation of widespread fraud in Minnesota's social services programs, amounting to billions of dollars in taxpayer money, raises serious concerns that other states may have fallen victim to similar schemes. All the while, American taxpayers are left to foot the staggering bill. I write to you today to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate indicators of fraud, current fraud prevention efforts, and make relevant recommendations to executive branch agencies and to Congress for programmatic specific legislative reforms in federally funded, state-administered programs.

The alleged fraud schemes are unprecedented in scale and scope. To take several prominent examples, the Committee is concerned about:

- Hundreds of billions of fraudulent benefits paid out through COVID-19 pandemic relief funds. GAO and the Department of Labor estimate that between \$100 billion and \$191 billion could have been paid improperly, with a significant portion attributable to fraud.¹
- Over \$240 million in Federal Child Nutrition Program funds provided to a Minnesota-based non-profit group, Feeding Our Future. Those funds were intended to feed thousands of children, but fraudsters spent the federal taxpayer dollars on luxury

¹ *Examining Widespread Fraud in Pandemic Unemployment Relief Programs*, Report Prepared by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff (Sept. 10, 2024).

cars, houses, foreign companies, and real estate projects in several states.² To date, 78 defendants have been charged in the scheme³ and over 55 have been convicted.⁴

- Widespread Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program fraud schemes, including a conspiracy involving two Venezuelan nationals who used more than 100 stolen identities to obtain \$440,000 in benefits.⁵
- More than \$16.2 billion in Medicaid-funded benefits to illegal aliens in numerous states.⁶

The Committee is committed to the vital work of uncovering the nature and extent of alleged fraud schemes in Minnesota and elsewhere with the intention of preventing similar activities in the future.⁷ Investigating fraud schemes like these is precisely the kind of work that Congress has empowered GAO to conduct. We are therefore requesting that GAO compile a comprehensive listing of federally funded, state-administered programs, including but not limited to the following programs listed below, and conduct a review of each such program.⁸

- Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Unemployment insurance
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Child Care and Development Fund
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
- State Opioid Response
- Career and Technical Education—Basic Grants to States
- Veterans State Nursing Home Care
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

² Ernesto Londoño, *How Fraud Swamped Minnesota’s Social Services System on Tim Walz’s Watch*, THE N.Y. TIMES (updated Nov. 30, 2025); Press Release, U.S. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Minneapolis woman pleads guilty in \$250 million Feeding Our Future fraud scheme (Feb. 25, 2025); Press Release, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney Announces Federal Charges Against 47 Defendants in \$250 Million Feeding Our Future Fraud Scheme (Sept. 20, 2022).

³ Press Release, United States Department of Justice, United States Attorney’s Office, District of Minnesota, 78th Defendant Charged in Feeding Our Future Fraud Scheme (Nov. 24, 2025).

⁴ Press Release, United States Department of Justice, United States Attorney’s Office, District of Minnesota, 56th Defendant Pleads Guilty in Feeding Our Future Fraud Scheme (Sept. 18, 2025).

⁵ Press Release, United States Department of Justice, United States Attorney’s Office, District of Massachusetts, Four Charged in Multi-State SNAP and PUA Fraud Conspiracy (Feb. 3, 2026).

⁶ Letter from Phillip L. Swagel, Dir., Cong. Budget Off., to Jodey Arrington, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Budget (Oct. 2, 2024), available at https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-10/Arrington_Letter_EmergencyMedicaid_Immigration_final.pdf.

⁷ See e.g., Press Release, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman Comer Opens Hearing on Massive Fraud in Minnesota’s Social Programs (Jan. 7, 2026).

⁸ See 42 U.S.C. § 1396–1396w and § 1397aa–1397mm; 7 U.S.C. §§ 2007–2036; 42 U.S.C. § 501–506; 42 U.S.C. § 1437f; 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751, 1761, 1761(a)(8), 1762, 1766, 1766(r), 1769a, 1772, 1773; 42 U.S.C. §§ 601–619; 42 U.S.C. § 9857; 42 U.S.C. § 1786; 42 U.S.C. § 290ee-3a; 20 U.S.C. § 2321; 38 U.S.C. § 1741-1743; 49 U.S.C. § 5310.

In this review, the Committee requests a thorough examination and report addressing the following issues:

- The extent of fraud taking place in federally funded benefits programs that are managed and administered at the state level;
- The most common and impactful fraud schemes affecting these programs and their prevalence across the various programs and states;
- Documentation of the program specific management and administrative practices and controls, including operational systems and specific policies, at the federal and state levels along with a description of how these programs are particularly vulnerable or resilient to certain types of fraud schemes given how they are specifically managed and administered;
- The extent to which specific programmatic management and administrative practices and controls can be modified to better prevent and detect fraud;
- The extent to which state level administration and management could benefit from enhanced cooperation with other state and federal agencies, such as through additional data sharing and data analytics, to prevent fraud in these programs;
- Issues with judicial process that may make it difficult to introduce information related to suspected fraud; and
- The extent to which program design focuses on compliance rather than verification or validation of identity and eligibility.

It is critical that Federal programs identify issues before they arise, therefore a close review of programs across states would benefit the Committee's further nation-wide oversight and legislative reform work. The intent of this work is for GAO and the Committee to gain a thorough understanding of how such federally funded, state-administered programs can be reformed by addressing program specific federal authorizing statutes, federal or State level policies, or specific executive branch agency management and administrative practices and controls. The Committee is also interested in any government-wide legislative reforms that can be identified to address systemic areas of failure or risk.

We ask that GAO staff regularly update Committee staff on the progress of the review and provide periodic briefings as appropriate. For any follow-up questions or questions related to the timing, sequencing, and scoping of this work, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee maintains explicit legislative jurisdiction over "Government management and accounting measures generally" and the "Overall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities" under House Rule X, Clause 1(n).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform