

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Chairwoman Maloney,

We are writing to urge you to include sufficient funding for oversight in the COVID-19 relief package, including at least \$40 million for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) and \$77 million for the Government Accountability Office (GAO).


Our nation is the middle of a public health and economic emergency. More than 465,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, and the unemployment rate is nearly double pre-pandemic levels. This unprecedented crisis requires an unprecedented investment in our communities, health care providers, businesses, and the American people. To ensure that these federal dollars are spent appropriately and to restore public trust in our federal response, this relief package must include resources for rigorous oversight.


When this body passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, we included comprehensive, bipartisan oversight mechanisms to deliver transparency and accountability to the American people. These mechanisms include the establishment of the PRAC, comprised of Inspectors General, and a new program of oversight at GAO. These federal watchdogs were charged with overseeing both the federal COVID-19 response and relief spending – a mandate that has helped root out fraud, develop concrete recommendations to improve our federal response, and shine a light on where taxpayer dollars are going.

To continue their critical work and oversee substantial new relief spending, both GAO and the PRAC require additional resources. We urge you to consider this need as you draft COVID-19 relief legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and your partnership in controlling this pandemic and delivering desperately needed relief to the American people.

Sincerely,


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs