118TH CONGRESS	\mathbf{C}	
2D Session		
		

To improve administration of the unemployment insurance program by expanding program integrity and anti-fraud activities and improving access to benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Wyden (for himself, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Brown, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Peters, Mr. Young, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Risch, Mr. Cardin, and Mr. Tillis) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To improve administration of the unemployment insurance program by expanding program integrity and anti-fraud activities and improving access to benefits, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility
- 6 Act".

1 (b) Table of Contents of Contents of

2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY

- Sec. 101. Extension of the statute of limitations for fraud by individuals under certain unemployment programs.
- Sec. 102. Waiver of recovery of nonfraud pandemic overpayments.
- Sec. 103. Permissible use of unemployment fund money for program administration.

TITLE II—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY

- Sec. 201. Use of National Directory of New Hires in administration of unemployment compensation programs.
- Sec. 202. Electronic transmission of unemployment compensation information.
- Sec. 203. Unemployment compensation data cross-matching.
- Sec. 204. Incarcerated individuals.
- Sec. 205. Regulations.

TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 301. Access to benefits.
- Sec. 302. GAO study and report on the use of funding for unemployment fraud prevention, equitable access, and timely payments.

3 TITLE I—UNEMPLOYMENT IN-

4 SURANCE FRAUD AND OVER-

5 **PAYMENT RECOVERY**

- 6 SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
- 7 FOR FRAUD BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER CER-
- 8 TAIN UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.
- 9 (a) Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.—Sec-
- 10 tion 2102 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021) is amend-
- 11 ed—
- 12 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
- section (i); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-2 lowing new subsection: 3 "(h) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.— 4 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other 5 provision of law and subject to paragraph (2), any 6 criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for 7 a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 8 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, 9 United States Code, or section 3729 of title 31, 10 United States Code, with respect to any unemploy-11 ment compensation claim funded in whole or in part 12 by pandemic unemployment assistance under this 13 section shall be brought not later than 10 years 14 after the date of the violation or conspiracy. 15 "(2) Exception.—Paragraph (1) shall not 16 apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil 17 enforcement action if the statute of limitations appli-18 cable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforce-19 ment action expired prior to the date of enactment 20 of the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Ac-21 cessibility Act.". 22 (b) FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COM-

PENSATION AND MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COM-

PENSATION.—Section 2104(f) of the CARES Act (15

23

1 U.S.C. 9023(f)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-

2 lowing new paragraph:

"(5) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any unemployment compensation claim funded in whole or in part by Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation under this section shall be brought not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action if the statute of limitations applicable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action expired prior to the date of enactment of the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act.".

1 (c) Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Com-2 PENSATION.—Section 2107(e) of the CARES Act (15 3 U.S.C. 9025(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: 5 "(5) Statute of Limitations.— 6 "(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any 7 other provision of law and subject to subpara-8 graph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil en-9 forcement action for a violation of, or con-10 spiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 11 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States 12 Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States 13 Code, with respect to any unemployment com-14 pensation claim funded in whole or in part by 15 pandemic emergency unemployment compensa-16 tion under this section shall be brought not 17 later than 10 years after the date of the viola-18 tion or conspiracy. 19 "(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)20 shall not apply with respect to a criminal pros-21 ecution or civil enforcement action if the statute 22 of limitations applicable to such criminal pros-23 ecution or civil enforcement action expired prior 24 to the date of enactment of the Unemployment 25 Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act.".

(d) FEMA OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—

(1) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

- (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, or 1349 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to other needs assistance for lost wages to supplement unemployment assistance available under programs administered by the Department of Labor shall be brought not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.
- (B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action if the statute of limitations applicable to such criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action expired prior to the date of enactment of this section.
- (2) Definition.—In paragraph (1), the term "other needs assistance for lost wages to supplement unemployment assistance" means any supplementary payment funded in whole or in part by financial as-

1	sistance under section $408(e)(2)$ of the Robert T.
2	Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
3	Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)(2)) relating to a major dis-
4	aster declared by the President under section 401 of
5	such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) to supplement recovery
6	efforts in areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease
7	2019 (COVID-19).
8	SEC. 102. WAIVER OF RECOVERY OF NONFRAUD PANDEMIC
9	OVERPAYMENTS.
10	(a) Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.—Sec-
11	tion $2102(d)(4)$ of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C.
12	9021(d)(4)) is amended to read as follows:
13	"(4) Repayment and waivers of overpay-
14	MENTS.—
15	"(A) Repayment.—Subject to subpara-
16	graph (B), in the case of individuals who have
17	received amounts of pandemic unemployment
18	assistance to which they were not entitled, the
19	State shall require such individuals to repay the
20	amounts of such pandemic unemployment as-
21	sistance to the State agency.
22	"(B) Waivers.—
23	"(i) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the
24	case of an overpayment of amounts of pan-
25	demic unemployment assistance—

1	"(I) established on or before De-
2	cember 31, 2025, a State agency may
3	waive repayment of such amounts
4	under subparagraph (A) if the State
5	agency determines that—
6	"(aa) the payment of such
7	pandemic unemployment assist-
8	ance was without fault on the
9	part of any such individual; and
10	"(bb) such repayment would
11	be contrary to equity and good
12	conscience; and
13	"(II) established after December
14	31, 2025, a State agency shall waive
15	repayment of such amounts under
16	subparagraph (A) if the State agency
17	determines that—
18	"(aa) the payment of such
19	pandemic unemployment assist-
20	ance was not based on fraud on
21	the part of the individual; and
22	"(bb) such repayment would
23	be contrary to equity and good
24	conscience.
25	"(ii) Additional authority.—

1	"(I) In general.—In addition
2	to the waiver authority provided under
3	clause (i) and subject to subclause
4	(II) of this clause, in the case of an
5	overpayment of amounts of pandemic
6	unemployment assistance established
7	on or before December 31, 2025, it
8	the State agency has not recovered
9	such amounts as of the date of enact-
10	ment of the Unemployment Insurance
11	Integrity and Accessibility Act, the
12	State agency may waive repayment of
13	such amounts to the State agency if it
14	determines that—
15	"(aa) the payment of such
16	pandemic unemployment assist-
17	ance was not based on fraud or
18	the part of the individual; and
19	"(bb) such repayment would
20	be contrary to equity and good
21	conscience.
22	"(II) RULE FOR AMOUNTS PRE-
23	VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of
24	an overpayment of amounts of pan-
25	demic unemployment assistance estab-

1	lished on or before December 31
2	2025, that has been completely or
3	partially recovered by the State agen-
4	cy prior to the date of enactment of
5	the Unemployment Insurance Integ-
6	rity and Accessibility Act, with respect
7	to such amount that has been so re-
8	covered—
9	"(aa) the waiver authority
10	under subclause (I) of this clause
11	shall not apply; and
12	"(bb) the State agency may
13	waive repayment of such recov-
14	ered amounts under the authority
15	under clause (i)(I).
16	"(C) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD
17	CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,
18	a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq-
19	uity and good conscience if—
20	"(i) recovery would cause financial
21	hardship to the person from whom it is
22	sought;
23	"(ii) the recipient of the overpayment
24	can show (regardless of their financial situ-
25	ation) that due to the notice that such pay-

1	ment would be made or because of the in-
2	correct payment, either they have relin-
3	quished a valuable right or changed posi-
4	tions for the worse;
5	"(iii) recovery would be unconscion-
6	able under the circumstances; or
7	"(iv) recovery would be contrary to
8	equity and good conscience under the State
9	law.".
10	(b) Federal Pandemic Unemployment Com-
11	PENSATION AND MIXED EARNER UNEMPLOYMENT COM-
12	PENSATION.—Section 2104(f)(2) of the CARES Act (15
13	U.S.C. $9023(f)(2)$) is amended to read as follows:
14	"(2) Repayment and waivers of overpay-
15	MENTS.—
16	"(A) Repayment.—Subject to subpara-
17	graph (B), in the case of individuals who have
18	received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unem-
19	ployment Compensation or Mixed Earner Un-
20	employment Compensation to which they were
21	not entitled, the State shall require such indi-
22	viduals to repay the amounts of such Federal
23	Pandemic Unemployment Compensation or
24	Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation to
25	the State agency.

1 "(B) Waivers.—
2	"(i) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the
3 case	of an overpayment of amounts of Fed-
4 eral	Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-
5 tion	or Mixed Earner Unemployment Com-
6 pens	sation—
7	"(I) established on or before De-
8	cember 31, 2025, a State agency may
9	waive repayment of such amounts
10	under subparagraph (A) if the State
11	agency determines that—
12	"(aa) the payment of such
13	Federal Pandemic Unemploy-
14	ment Compensation or Mixed
15	Earner Unemployment Com-
16	pensation was without fault on
17	the part of any such individual;
18	and
19	"(bb) such repayment would
20	be contrary to equity and good
21	conscience; and
22	"(II) established after December
23	31, 2025, a State agency shall waive
24	repayment of such amounts under

1	subparagraph (A) if the State agency
2	determines that—
3	"(aa) the payment of such
4	Federal Pandemic Unemploy-
5	ment Compensation or Mixed
6	Earner Unemployment Com-
7	pensation was not based on fraud
8	on the part of the individual; and
9	"(bb) such repayment would
10	be contrary to equity and good
11	conscience.
12	"(ii) Additional authority.—
13	"(I) In general.—In addition
14	to the waiver authority provided under
15	clause (i) and subject to subclause
16	(II) of this clause, in the case of an
17	overpayment of amounts of Federal
18	Pandemic Unemployment Compensa-
19	tion or Mixed Earner Unemployment
20	Compensation established on or before
21	December 31, 2025, if the State agen-
22	cy has not recovered such amounts as
23	of the date of enactment of the Unem-
24	ployment Insurance Integrity and Ac-
25	cessibility Act, the State agency may

1	waive repayment of such amounts to
2	the State agency if it determines
3	that—
4	"(aa) the payment of such
5	Federal Pandemic Unemploy-
6	ment Compensation or Mixed
7	Earner Unemployment Com-
8	pensation was not based on fraud
9	on the part of the individual; and
10	"(bb) such repayment would
11	be contrary to equity and good
12	conscience.
13	"(II) Rule for amounts pre-
14	VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of
15	an overpayment of amounts of Fed-
16	eral Pandemic Unemployment Com-
17	pensation or Mixed Earner Unemploy-
18	ment Compensation established on or
19	before December 31, 2025, that has
20	been completely or partially recovered
21	by the State agency prior to the date
22	of enactment of the Unemployment
23	Insurance Integrity and Accessibility
24	Act, with respect to such amount that
25	has been so recovered—

1	"(aa) the waiver authority
2	under subclause (I) of this clause
3	shall not apply; and
4	"(bb) the State agency may
5	waive repayment of such recov-
6	ered amounts under the authority
7	under clause (i)(I).
8	"(C) CONTRARY TO EQUITY AND GOOD
9	CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,
10	a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq-
11	uity and good conscience if—
12	"(i) recovery would cause financial
13	hardship to the person from whom it is
14	sought;
15	"(ii) the recipient of the overpayment
16	can show (regardless of their financial situ-
17	ation) that due to the notice that such pay-
18	ment would be made or because of the in-
19	correct payment, either they have relin-
20	quished a valuable right or changed posi-
21	tions for the worse;
22	"(iii) recovery would be unconscion-
23	able under the circumstances; or

1	"(iv) recovery would be contrary to
2	equity and good conscience under the State
3	law.".
4	(c) Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Com-
5	PENSATION.—Section 2107(e)(2) of the CARES Act (15
6	U.S.C. 9025(e)(2)) is amended to read as follows:
7	"(2) Repayment and waivers of overpay-
8	MENTS.—
9	"(A) Repayment.—Subject to subpara-
10	graph (B), in the case of individuals who have
11	received amounts of pandemic emergency unem-
12	ployment compensation to which they were not
13	entitled, the State shall require such individuals
14	to repay the amounts of such pandemic emer-
15	gency unemployment compensation to the State
16	agency.
17	"(B) Waivers.—
18	"(i) General Authority.—In the
19	case of an overpayment of amounts of pan-
20	demic emergency unemployment compensa-
21	tion—
22	"(I) established on or before De-
23	cember 31, 2025, a State agency may
24	waive repayment of such amounts

1	under subparagraph (A) if the State
2	agency determines that—
3	"(aa) the payment of such
4	pandemic emergency unemploy-
5	ment compensation was without
6	fault on the part of any such in-
7	dividual; and
8	"(bb) such repayment would
9	be contrary to equity and good
10	conscience; and
11	"(II) established after December
12	31, 2025, a State agency shall waive
13	repayment of such amounts under
14	subparagraph (A) if the State agency
15	determines that—
16	"(aa) the payment of such
17	pandemic emergency unemploy-
18	ment compensation was not
19	based on fraud on the part of the
20	individual; and
21	"(bb) such repayment would
22	be contrary to equity and good
23	conscience.
24	"(ii) Additional authority.—

1	"(I) In general.—In addition
2	to the waiver authority provided under
3	clause (i) and subject to subclause
4	(II) of this clause, in the case of an
5	overpayment of amounts of pandemic
6	emergency unemployment compensa-
7	tion established on or before Decem-
8	ber 31, 2025, if the State agency has
9	not recovered such amounts as of the
10	date of enactment of the Unemploy-
11	ment Insurance Integrity and Accessi-
12	bility Act, the State agency may waive
13	repayment of such amounts to the
14	State agency if it determines that—
15	"(aa) the payment of such
16	pandemic emergency unemploy-
17	ment compensation was not
18	based on fraud on the part of the
19	individual; and
20	"(bb) such repayment would
21	be contrary to equity and good
22	conscience.
23	"(II) Rule for amounts pre-
24	VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of
25	an overpayment of amounts of pan-

1	demic emergency unemployment com-
2	pensation established on or before De-
3	cember 31, 2025, that has been com-
4	pletely or partially recovered by the
5	State agency prior to the date of en-
6	actment of the Unemployment Insur-
7	ance Integrity and Accessibility Act,
8	with respect to such amount that has
9	been so recovered—
10	"(aa) the waiver authority
11	under subclause (I) of this clause
12	shall not apply; and
13	"(bb) the State agency may
14	waive repayment of such recov-
15	ered amounts under the authority
16	under clause (i)(I).
17	"(C) Contrary to equity and good
18	CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this paragraph,
19	a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq-
20	uity and good conscience if—
21	"(i) recovery would cause financial
22	hardship to the person from whom it is
23	sought;
24	"(ii) the recipient of the overpayment
25	can show (regardless of their financial situ-

1	ation) that due to the notice that such pay-
2	ment would be made or because of the in-
3	correct payment, either they have relin-
4	quished a valuable right or changed posi-
5	tions for the worse;
6	"(iii) recovery would be unconscion-
7	able under the circumstances; or
8	"(iv) recovery would be contrary to
9	equity and good conscience under the State
10	law.''.
11	(d) FEMA DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE.—Section
12	262(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations
13	Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 5174 note) is amended to read as
14	follows:
15	"(b) Repayment and Waivers of Overpay-
16	MENTS.—
17	"(1) Repayment.—Subject to paragraph (2),
18	in the case of individuals who have received amounts
19	of covered assistance to which they were not entitled,
20	the State shall require such individuals to repay the
21	amounts of such covered assistance to the State
22	agency.
23	"(2) Waivers of overpayments.—

1	"(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In the case
2	of an overpayment of amounts of covered assist-
3	ance—
4	"(i) established on or before Decem-
5	ber 31, 2025, a State agency may waive
6	repayment of such amounts under para-
7	graph (1) if the State agency determines
8	that—
9	"(I) the payment of such covered
10	assistance was without fault on the
11	part of any such individual; and
12	"(II) such repayment would be
13	contrary to equity and good con-
14	science; and
15	"(ii) established after December 31,
16	2025, a State agency shall waive repay-
17	ment of such amounts under paragraph
18	(1) if the State agency determines that—
19	"(I) the payment of such covered
20	assistance was not based on fraud on
21	the part of the individual; and
22	"(II) such repayment would be
23	contrary to equity and good con-
24	science.
25	"(B) Additional authority.—

1	"(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the
2	waiver authority provided under subpara-
3	graph (A) and subject to clause (ii) of this
4	subparagraph, in the case of an overpay-
5	ment of amounts of covered assistance es-
6	tablished on or before December 31, 2025,
7	if the State agency has not recovered such
8	amounts as of the date of enactment of the
9	Unemployment Insurance Integrity and
10	Accessibility Act, the State agency may
11	waive repayment of such amounts to the
12	State agency if it determines that—
13	"(I) the payment of such covered
14	assistance was not based on fraud on
15	the part of the individual; and
16	"(II) such repayment would be
17	contrary to equity and good con-
18	science.
19	"(ii) Rule for amounts pre-
20	VIOUSLY RECOVERED.—In the case of an
21	overpayment of amounts of covered assist-
22	ance established on or before December 31,
23	2025, that has been completely or partially
24	recovered by the State agency prior to the
25	date of enactment of the Unemployment

1	Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
2	with respect to such amount that has been
3	so recovered—
4	"(I) the waiver authority under
5	clause (i) of this subparagraph shal
6	not apply; and
7	"(II) the State agency may waive
8	repayment of such recovered amounts
9	under the authority under subpara-
10	graph (A)(i).
11	"(C) Contrary to equity and good
12	CONSCIENCE.—For purposes of this subsection
13	a repayment shall be considered contrary to eq
14	uity and good conscience if—
15	"(i) recovery would cause financia
16	hardship to the person from whom it is
17	sought;
18	"(ii) the recipient of the overpayment
19	can show (regardless of their financial situ-
20	ation) that due to the notice that such pay
21	ment would be made or because of the in-
22	correct payment, either they have relin-
23	quished a valuable right or changed posi-
24	tions for the worse;

1	"(iii) recovery would be unconscion-
2	able under the circumstances; or
3	"(iv) recovery would be contrary to
4	equity and good conscience under the State
5	law.".
6	(e) Ongoing Review and Reports to Con-
7	GRESS.—
8	(1) Ongoing review.—The Comptroller Gen-
9	eral of the United States (in this subsection referred
10	to as the "Comptroller General") shall conduct an
11	ongoing review of the implementation of the provi-
12	sions of, and the amendments made by, this section.
13	Such review shall include an analysis of—
14	(A) whether waivers were properly granted
15	to individuals who qualified for a waiver;
16	(B) whether waivers were properly denied
17	to individuals who did not qualify for a waiver;
18	and
19	(C) other matters determined appropriate
20	by the Comptroller General.
21	(2) Reports.—Not later than 1 year after the
22	date of enactment of this subsection, and annually
23	until the date that is 3 years after the date of enact-
24	ment of this section, the Comptroller General shall
25	submit to Congress a report containing the results

1	of the review conducted under paragraph (1), to-
2	gether with recommendations for such legislation
3	and administrative action as the Comptroller Gen-
4	eral determines appropriate.
5	SEC. 103. PERMISSIBLE USE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FUND
6	MONEY FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.
7	(a) Withdrawal Standard in the Internal
8	REVENUE CODE.—Section 3304 of the Internal Revenue
9	Code of 1986 is amended—
10	(1) in subsection $(a)(4)$ —
11	(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
12	"and" at the end; and
13	(B) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
14	the following:
15	"(H) subject to subsection (h) and except
16	as provided in subparagraph (J), of those pay-
17	ments of benefits from a State's unemployment
18	fund that are determined to have been overpaid
19	and are subsequently recovered by the State,
20	the State may, immediately following receipt of
21	such recovered amount, place a percentage of
22	such recovered amount, as specified in State
23	law (but not to exceed 5 percent), in a sub-ac-
24	count of the State's account in the Unemploy-
25	ment Trust Fund from which money may be

1 withdrawn only for the uses described in sub-2 section (g); 3 "(I) of those payments of contributions (or 4 payments in lieu of contributions) that are col-5 lected as a result of an investigation and assess-6 ment by a State agency, the State may, imme-7 diately following receipt of such payments, place 8 a percentage of such payments, as specified in 9 State law (but not to exceed 5 percent), into 10 the same sub-account of the State's account in 11 the Unemployment Trust Fund described in 12 subparagraph (H) from which money may be withdrawn only for the uses described in sub-13 14 section (g); and "(J) of those payments of pandemic unem-15 16 ployment assistance under section 2102 of the 17 CARES Act, Federal Pandemic Unemployment 18 Compensation under section 2104 of such Act, 19 Earner Unemployment Compensation Mixed 20 under section 2104 of such Act, or pandemic 21 emergency unemployment compensation under 22 section 2107 of such Act that are determined to

have been fraudulently overpaid and are subse-

quently recovered by the State, the State may,

immediately following receipt of such recovered

23

24

25

1	amount, place up to 25 percent of such recov-
2	ered amount into the same sub-account of the
3	State's account in the Unemployment Trust
4	Fund described in subparagraph (H) from
5	which money may be withdrawn only for the
6	uses described in subsection (g);"; and
7	(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8	sections:
9	"(g) Permissible Uses.—The uses described in this
10	subsection are the following:
11	"(1) The payment of costs of deterring, detect-
12	ing, and preventing improper unemployment insur-
13	ance payments.
14	"(2) Uses relating to the proper classification of
15	employees.
16	"(3) Uses relating to the provisions of State
17	law implementing section 303(k) of the Social Secu-
18	rity Act.
19	"(4) The payment to the Secretary of the
20	Treasury to the credit of the account of the State
21	in the Unemployment Trust Fund.
22	"(5) Modernizing the State's unemployment in-
23	surance technology infrastructure.
24	"(6) Improving access to unemployment com-
25	pensation and recipiency rates for eligible workers.

1	"(7) Improving the timely and accurate pay-
2	ment of unemployment compensation.
3	"(8) Complying with the requirements of sec-
4	tion 303(q) of the Social Security Act.
5	"(9) Otherwise improving the administration of
6	State and Federal unemployment compensation
7	laws.
8	"(h) Limitation on Retention of Recovered
9	Funds.—
10	"(1) In General.—Subject to paragraph (2),
11	subsection (a)(4)(H) shall not apply to a State un-
12	less the State law provides that, in the case of an
13	individual who has received amounts of unemploy-
14	ment compensation to which they were not entitled,
15	the State agency may waive repayment of such
16	amounts to the State agency if it determines that—
17	"(A) the payment of such unemployment
18	compensation was not based on fraud on the
19	part of the individual; and
20	"(B)(i) the payment of such unemployment
21	compensation was due to the error of the State
22	agency; or
23	"(ii) such repayment would be contrary to
24	equity and good conscience.

1	"(2) REQUIREMENT NOT APPLICABLE TO PAN-
2	DEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT.—The requirement under
3	paragraph (1) shall not apply to repayments of pan-
4	demic unemployment assistance, Federal Pandemic
5	Unemployment Compensation, Mixed Earner Unem-
6	ployment Compensation, and pandemic emergency
7	unemployment compensation.
8	"(3) Contrary to equity and good con-
9	SCIENCE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), a
10	repayment shall be considered contrary to equity and
11	good conscience if—
12	"(A) recovery would cause financial hard-
13	ship to the person from whom it is sought;
14	"(B) the recipient of the overpayment can
15	show (regardless of their financial situation)
16	that due to the notice that such payment would
17	be made or because of the incorrect payment,
18	either they have relinquished a valuable right or
19	changed positions for the worse;
20	"(C) recovery would be unconscionable
21	under the circumstances; or
22	"(D) the situation meets any other criteria
23	as determined by State law.".
24	(b) Definition of Unemployment Fund.—Sec-
25	tion $3306(f)$ of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is

- 1 amended, in the third sentence, by striking "(exclusive of
- 2 expenses of administration)" and all that follows through
- 3 the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting ",
- 4 except as otherwise provided in section 3304(a)(4) or any
- 5 other provision of Federal law.".
- 6 (c) WITHDRAWAL STANDARD IN SOCIAL SECURITY
- 7 Act.—Section 303(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
- 8 U.S.C. 503(a)(5)) is amended by striking "exclusive of ex-
- 9 penses of administration," and all that follows and insert-
- 10 ing "except as otherwise provided in this section, section
- 11 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
- 12 other provision of Federal law; and".
- 13 (d) Immediate Deposit Requirements.—
- 14 (1) Internal revenue code require-
- 15 MENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 3304(a) of the In-
- ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as
- 17 follows:
- 18 "(3) all money received in the unemployment
- 19 fund of the State shall immediately upon such re-
- ceipt be paid over to the Secretary of the Treasury
- 21 to the credit of the Unemployment Trust Fund es-
- tablished by section 904 of the Social Security Act
- 23 (42 U.S.C. 1104), except for—
- 24 "(A) refunds of sums erroneously paid into
- 25 the unemployment fund of the State;

1	"(B) refunds paid in accordance with the
2	provisions of section 3305(b); and
3	"(C) amounts placed in a sub-account of
4	the State's account in the Unemployment Trust
5	Fund pursuant to subparagraph (H), (I), or (J)
6	of paragraph (4);".
7	(2) Social security act requirement.—
8	Section 303(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (42
9	U.S.C. 503(a)(4)) is amended by striking "(except
10	for refunds" and all that follows through "Federal
11	Unemployment Tax Act)" and inserting "(except as
12	otherwise provided in this section, section
13	3304(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or
14	any other provision of Federal law)".
15	(e) Application to Federal Payments.—Section
16	303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503) is amended
17	by adding at the end the following new subsection:
18	"(n) Recovery of Federal Payments.—
19	"(1) In general.—As a condition for admin-
20	istering any unemployment compensation program of
21	the United States (as defined in paragraph (2)) as
22	an agent of the United States, a State shall, with re-
23	spect to erroneous payments made under such pro-
24	grams by the State, use the authority provided
25	under subparagraphs (H) and (I) of section

3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in
the same manner as such authority is used with re-
spect to erroneous payments made under the State
unemployment compensation law. With respect to er-
roneous Federal payments recovered consistent with
the authority under such subparagraphs (H) and
(I), the State shall immediately place the same per-
centage of the recovered payments into the same
sub-account of the State's account in the Unemploy-
ment Trust Fund as provided in the State law im-
plementing such section 3304(a)(4).
"(2) Definition.—For purposes of this sub-
section, the term 'unemployment compensation pro-
gram of the United States' means—
"(A) unemployment compensation for Fed-
eral civilian employees under subchapter I of
chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code;
"(B) unemployment compensation for ex-
servicemembers under subchapter II of chapter
85 of title 5, United States Code;
"(C) extended benefits under the Federal-
State Extended Unemployment Compensation
Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note);
"(D) any Federal temporary extension of
unemployment compensation;

1	"(E) any Federal program that increases
2	the weekly amount of unemployment compensa-
3	tion payable to individuals; and
4	"(F) any other Federal program providing
5	for the payment of unemployment compensa-
6	tion, as determined by the Secretary.".
7	(f) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
8	this section shall apply to overpayments or payments of
9	contributions (or payments in lieu of contributions) that
10	are collected as a result of an investigation and assessment
11	by the State agency after the earlier of—
12	(1) the date the State changes its statutes, reg-
13	ulations, or policies in order to comply with such
14	amendment; or
15	(2) December 31, 2026.
16	(g) Implementation.—
17	(1) Guidance.—Not later than 90 days after
18	the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
19	of Labor shall provide guidance to States for imple-
20	menting the amendments made by this section.
21	(2) Regulations.—
22	(A) Interim final rule.—Not later than
23	1 year after the date of enactment of this sec-
24	tion, the Secretary of Labor shall issue an in-

1	terim final rule to carry out the amendments
2	made by section.
3	(B) Final Rule.—Not later than 2 years
4	after the date of enactment of this section, the
5	Secretary of Labor shall issue a final rule to
6	carry out the amendments made by section.
7	TITLE II—UNEMPLOYMENT IN-
8	SURANCE PROGRAM INTEG-
9	RITY
10	SEC. 201. USE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES IN
11	ADMINISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COM-
12	PENSATION PROGRAMS.
13	Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14	503), as amended by section 103(e), is amended by adding
15	at the end the following new subsection:
16	"(o) Use of National Directory of New
17	Hires.—
18	"(1) In General.—The State agency charged
19	with administration of the State law shall have in
20	place procedures to—
21	"(A) compare information in the National
22	Directory of New Hires established under sec-
23	tion 453(i) against unemployment compensation
24	data to identify any individuals claiming unem-
25	ployment compensation who may have become

1 employed, in accordance with any regulations or 2 guidance that the Secretary of Health and 3 Human Services may issue and consistent with 4 the computer matching provisions of the Pri-5 vacy Act of 1974; 6 "(B) take timely action to verify whether 7 the individuals identified pursuant to subpara-8 graph (A) are employed; and 9 "(C) upon verification pursuant to sub-10 paragraph (B), take appropriate action to sus-11 pend or modify unemployment compensation 12 payments, and to initiate recovery of any im-13 proper unemployment compensation payments 14 that have been made. 15 "(2) Enforcement.—Whenever the Secretary 16 of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for 17 hearing to the State agency charged with the admin-18 istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail-19 ure to comply substantially with the requirements of 20 paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall notify 21 such State agency that further payments will not be 22 made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is 23 satisfied that there is no longer any such failure. 24 Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such

1	Secretary shall make no future certification to the
2	Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State
3	"(3) Effective date.—The requirements of
4	paragraph (1) shall apply to weeks of unemployment
5	beginning on or after the earlier of—
6	"(A) the date the State changes its state
7	utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply
8	with such requirements; or
9	"(B) December 31, 2026.".
10	SEC. 202. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
11	COMPENSATION INFORMATION.
12	Section 303 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C
13	503), as amended by sections 103(e) and 201, is amended
14	by adding at the end the following new subsection:
15	"(p) Electronic Transmission of Unemploy-
16	MENT COMPENSATION INFORMATION.—
17	"(1) In General.—The State agency charged
18	with administration of the State law shall use a sys-
19	tem designated by the Secretary of Labor for auto-
20	mated electronic transmission between such State
21	agency and employers or their agents of requests for
22	information relating to unemployment compensation
23	and the provision of such information to such State
24	agency.

1	"(2) EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION.—The Sec-
2	retary of Labor shall work with the State agency
3	charged with administration of the State law to in-
4	crease the number of employers using the system de-
5	scribed in paragraph (1) and to resolve any technical
6	challenges with the system.
7	"(3) Reports on use of electronic sys-
8	TEM.—Not later than December 31, 2027 (and it
9	subsequently requested by the Committee on Fi-
10	nance of the Senate or the Committee on Ways and
11	Means of the House of Representatives, but in no
12	case more once per year)), the Secretary shall sub-
13	mit to such Committees a report that contains infor-
14	mation on—
15	"(A) the proportion of employers using the
16	designated system described in paragraph (1);
17	"(B) the reasons reported by employers for
18	not using such system;
19	"(C) the efforts that States are under-
20	taking to increase employers' use of such sys-
21	tem;
22	"(D) which components and functions of
23	such system States and employers in the States
24	are using; and

1	"(E) other information determined appro
2	priate by the Secretary.
3	"(4) Enforcement.—Whenever the Secretary
4	of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for
5	hearing to the State agency charged with the admin
6	istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail
7	ure to comply substantially with the requirements of
8	this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall notify
9	such State agency that further payments will not be
10	made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is
11	satisfied that there is no longer any such failure
12	Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such
13	Secretary shall make no future certification to the
14	Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State
15	"(5) Effective date.—The requirements of
16	this subsection shall apply to weeks of unemploy
17	ment beginning on or after the earlier of—
18	"(A) the date the State changes its stat
19	utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply
20	with such requirements; or
2.1	"(B) December 31, 2026"

1	SEC. 203. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DATA CROSS-
2	MATCHING.
3	(a) In General.—Section 303(a) of the Social Secu-
4	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)), as amended by section 103,
5	is amended—
6	(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
7	striking "provision for—" and inserting "provision
8	for each of the following:";
9	(2) at the end of each of paragraphs (1)
10	through (10) and paragraph (11)(A), by striking ";
11	and" and inserting a period; and
12	(3) by adding at the end the following new
13	paragraph:
14	"(13) The State agency charged with adminis-
15	tration of the State law shall use the system des-
16	ignated by the Secretary of Labor for cross-match-
17	ing claimants of unemployment compensation under
18	State law against any databases in the system to
19	prevent and detect fraud and improper payments.".
20	(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
21	subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment be-
22	ginning on or after the earlier of—
23	(1) the date the State changes its statutes, reg-
24	ulations, or policies in order to comply with such
25	amendment; or
26	(2) December 31, 2026.

1 SEC. 204. INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

- 2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the Social Secu-
- 3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 503(a)), as amended by sections 103
- 4 and 203(a), is amended by adding at the end the following
- 5 new paragraph:
- 6 "(14) The regular cross-matching of claimants
- 7 for unemployment compensation under the State
- 8 law, or under Federal law administered by the State
- 9 pursuant to an agreement, with the prisoner infor-
- mation maintained under sections 202(x) and
- 11 1611(e) by the Social Security Administration or
- such other repositories of information identifying in-
- dividuals who are incarcerated as the Secretary of
- 14 Labor may require, for purposes of assisting in the
- determination of eligibility, subject to appropriate
- safeguards determined by the disclosing agency to
- ensure such information is used only for authorized
- purposes.".
- 19 (b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
- 20 subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment be-
- 21 ginning on or after the earlier of—
- 22 (1) the date the State changes its statutes, reg-
- 23 ulations, or policies in order to comply with such
- amendment; or
- 25 (2) December 31, 2026.

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2	(a) Interim Final Rule.—Not later than 1 year
3	after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
4	of Labor shall issue an interim final rule to carry out the
5	amendments made by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204.
6	(b) Final Rule.—Not later than 2 years after the
7	date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Labor
8	shall issue a final rule to carry out the amendments made
9	by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204.
10	(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the interim final
11	rule under subsection (a) and the final rule under sub-
12	section (b), the Secretary of Labor shall—
13	(1) take into account benefit access, benefit
14	timeliness, program integrity (including fraud pre-
15	vention), due process, and other factors determined
16	appropriate by the Secretary;
17	(2) specify—
18	(A) the method and frequency of cross-
19	matching necessary to minimize susceptibility to
20	fraud while ensuring benefit access and timeli-
21	ness;
22	(B) methods to ensure that data used for
23	cross-matching is accurate and up-to-date;
24	(C) methods of evaluating the systems de-
25	scribed in the amendments made by sections
26	201, 202, 203, and 204 for effectiveness in pre-

1	venting and detecting fraud and improper pay-
2	ments;
3	(D) methods for ensuring that such sys-
4	tems do not result in the flagging of claims
5	based on the personal characteristics of the ap-
6	plicant or claimant, such as race, color, religion,
7	sex, national origin, age, disability, or political
8	affiliation or belief;
9	(E) methods for ensuring that such sys-
10	tems comply with best practices for privacy and
11	cybersecurity, including ensuring that the cy-
12	bersecurity of such systems is consistent with
13	the relevant cybersecurity laws (including regu-
14	lations), policies, and standards that would
15	apply if the system were operated by an agency
16	in the executive branch; and
17	(F) other information necessary to ensure
18	proper implementation of the amendments
19	made by sections 201, 202, 203, and 204, as
20	determined appropriate by the Secretary of
21	Labor.

1 TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT IN-

2 SURANCE ADMINISTRATION

3 AND TECHNOLOGY

4	SEC	301	ACCESS	TO	BENEFITS
-	BEC.		AUUUNDO	,	

- 5 (a) In General.—Section 303 of the Social Security
- 6 Act (42 U.S.C. 503), as amended by sections 103(e), 201,
- 7 and 202, is amended by adding at the end the following
- 8 new subsection:

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- 9 "(q) Access to Benefits.—
- "(1) IN GENERAL.—The State agency charged
 with administration of the State law shall, in accordance with standards established by the Secretary—
 - "(A) provide guidance to employers in the State on best practices for providing written information to employees upon separation from employment regarding how the employee may file a claim for unemployment compensation and how the employee may find more information from the State agency about eligibility criteria for unemployment compensation;
 - "(B) have processes in place so that employers may notify the State workforce agency of employees who may apply for unemployment compensation due to layoffs through no fault of the employee, short-term layoffs, business shut-

1	downs, partial unemployment, and short-time
2	compensation;
3	"(C) ensure that any online claim filing
4	system used by the State meets the require-
5	ments described in paragraph (2); and
6	"(D) ensure that alternate means of claim
7	filing (such as phone and in-person options) are
8	available.
9	"(2) Access requirements for online
10	CLAIM FILING.—The requirements described in this
11	paragraph with respect to an online claim filing sys-
12	tem are the following:
13	"(A) The online claim filing system—
14	"(i) ensures that the process of filing
15	initial and continuing claims for unemploy-
16	ment compensation can be readily under-
17	stood and accomplished by claimants (in-
18	cluding individuals with limited English
19	proficiency, individuals with disabilities (in
20	compliance with section 508 of the Reha-
21	bilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d)),
22	older individuals, and individuals with lit-
23	eracy challenges); and
24	"(ii) provides clear methods of seeking
25	assistance if a claimant is unable to readily

1	understand or accomplish the process of
2	filing initial or continuing claims.
3	"(B) The online claim filing system—
4	"(i) allows claimants to access the on-
5	line claim filing system and file a claim in
6	any language spoken at home by more
7	than 1 percent of the State's population,
8	as determined by the Secretary using data
9	from the Bureau of the Census (with such
10	translations either completed by human
11	translators or, in the case of a translation
12	completed by translation software, re-
13	viewed by a human translator); and
14	"(ii) complies with the requirements
15	of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C.
16	301 note), including requirements related
17	to providing information that is clear, con-
18	cise, and well-organized.
19	"(C) The online claim filing system is de-
20	signed to align with the requirements of the
21	Connected Government Act and is accessible
22	and optimized for all commonly used operating
23	systems and web browsers, including operating
24	systems and web browsers commonly used on
25	desktop computers, tablets, and mobile devices

1	such that any features of the online claim filing
2	system (such as the ability to upload docu-
3	mentation) that are available in the desktop
4	version of the online claim filing system are also
5	available in the tablet and mobile versions and
6	are available for all operating systems and web
7	browsers commonly used on such devices.
8	"(D) The online claim filing system allows
9	for electronic submission of documentation re-
10	quired to support a claim, including the ability
11	of claimants to scan or photograph and submit
12	documentation using a tablet or mobile device.
13	"(E) The online claim filing system allows
14	claimants to access such system 24 hours a
15	day, 7 days a week, with the exception of sched-
16	uled and emergency maintenance that shall be
17	conducted, to the extent practicable, at nonpeak
18	hours.
19	"(F) The online claim filing system is ca-
20	pable of deploying multiple methods of commu-
21	nication with claimants, such as short message
22	service (SMS) message, email, postal mail, live
23	chat, or chatbots.
24	"(3) Enforcement.—Whenever the Secretary
25	of Labor, after reasonable notice and opportunity for

1	hearing to the State agency charged with the admin-
2	istration of the State law, finds that there is a fail-
3	ure to comply substantially with the requirements of
4	this subsection, the Secretary of Labor shall notify
5	such State agency that further payments will not be
6	made to the State until the Secretary of Labor is
7	satisfied that there is no longer any such failure.
8	Until the Secretary of Labor is so satisfied, such
9	Secretary shall make no future certification to the
10	Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the State
11	"(4) Effective date.—The requirements of
12	this subsection shall apply to weeks of unemploy-
13	ment beginning on or after the earlier of—
14	"(A) the date the State changes its stat-
15	utes, regulations, or policies in order to comply
16	with such requirements; or
17	"(B) December 31, 2027.".
18	(b) Regulations.—
19	(1) Final Rule.—Not later than 2 years after
20	the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
21	of Labor shall issue a final rule to carry out the
22	amendment made by subsection (a).
23	(2) Requirements.—In issuing the final rule
24	under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall
25	take into account—

1	(A) benefit access, benefit timeliness, pro-
2	gram integrity (including fraud prevention),
3	and due process;
4	(B) how States may meet the requirements
5	of section 303(q) of the Social Security Act, as
6	added by subsection (a), while minimizing sus-
7	ceptibility to fraud;
8	(C) best practices related to user experi-
9	ence, technology modernization, and procure-
10	ment, including best practices for minimizing
11	the cost of modernization; and
12	(D) other factors determined appropriate
13	by the Secretary of Labor.
14	SEC. 302. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE USE OF FUND-
15	ING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD PREVEN-
16	TION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAY-
17	MENTS.
18	(a) Study.—The Comptroller General of the United
19	States (in this section referred to as the "Comptroller
20	General") shall conduct a study on the obligation and use
21	of funds under section 2118 of division A of the CARES
22	Act (15 U.S.C. 9034), as added by section 9032 of the
23	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2).
24	Such study shall include an analysis of the following:

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(1) How the amounts appropriated under such section 2118 are being utilized by the Secretary of Labor and States and territories to detect and prevent fraud, promote equitable access, and ensure timely payment of benefits under unemployment compensation programs, including the percentage of such amounts that were used for each of the 3 permissible uses under subsection (b) of such section 2118.

- (2) The progress and implementation of projects funded under such section 2118 arising from Department of Labor Tiger Team recommendations, including any reasons for deviation from agreed-upon negotiated recommendations issued by Department of Labor Tiger Teams.
- (3) Outcome metrics used by States and territories and the Secretary to demonstrate effectiveness of actions taken using the amounts appropriated under such section 2118 in achieving the purposes of detecting and preventing fraud, promoting equitable access, and ensuring the timely payment of benefits.
- (4) Whether any of the amounts appropriated under such section 2118 were used for any purpose

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1	other than the 3 permissible uses under subsection
2	(b) of such section 2118.
3	(5) The methodology used by the Secretary to
4	determine funding allocations of the amounts appro-
5	priated under such section 2118.
6	(6) The total amount of unobligated funds re-
7	maining under such section 2118.
8	(7) How amounts appropriated under such sec-
9	tion 2118 have been used for technology moderniza-
10	tion, and whether States and territories have re-
11	maining technology modernization needs.
12	(8) The total amount awarded under each
13	grant, the projects undertaken by each State and
14	territory using such grant, the amount allocated for
15	each such project, whether such project is complete
16	or incomplete, and, if incomplete, an estimate for the
17	completion of each project.
18	(9) Whether States and territories will be able
19	to continue activities to detect and prevent fraud,
20	promote equitable access, and ensure timely payment
21	of benefits funded with the amounts appropriated
22	under such section 2118 when such amounts are ex-
23	pended.
24	(10) Contracts, grants, cooperative agreements,

progress reports (including ETA ARPA 9178s), and

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1 other supporting documents relating to agreements 2 entered into using amounts appropriated under such 3 section 2118, and the amount spent on such con-4 tracts, grants, agreements, and progress reports. 5 (11) Any other area determined appropriate by 6 the Comptroller General. 7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall 8 9 submit to Congress a report containing the results of the 10 study conducted under subsection (a), together with rec-11 ommendations for such legislation and administrative ac-

tion as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.