



Advocates for Government Accountability

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

September 17, 2014

The Honorable Peter Roskam
United States House of Representatives
227 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roskam:

Cause of Action is a non-profit, nonpartisan government accountability organization that shares your interest in fighting for government oversight and transparency. Because of our shared commitment to accountable government, Cause of Action writes to express its support for H.R. 4158, the "Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act of 2014," otherwise known as the "SIGMA Act of 2014."

The Affordable Care Act ("ACA" or "Obamacare") is a deceptively complex and non-transparent law that has created one of the largest government bureaucracies in decades. The American public already has seen countless problems with the implementation of various aspects of this law, and little has been done to address the risks of waste, fraud and abuse of the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that states are receiving to run their exchanges or marketplaces. By authorizing a Special Inspector General to focus on monitoring ACA, the SIGMA Act of 2014 has the potential to curb waste, fraud, and abuse. If done properly – by utilizing a robust inspector general who acts independently from HHS and the officials in charge of implementing the ACA – this approach should, in turn, lower health care costs for taxpayers.

In addition, under the present framework, the use of millions of federal dollars received by sub-grantees through states is not monitored by any federal entity (e.g., HHS); presumably a Special Inspector General would monitor these taxpayer funds to assure that neither impermissible lobbying nor wasteful or fraudulent spending takes place. Finally, the public has a right to access information about the operation of this sweeping law. The SIGMA Act of 2014 takes a step in the right direction by requiring the collection of information, along with quarterly reports to Congress, which are posted on a publicly available website.

The American people deserve vigilant oversight of Obamacare, a controversial program whose implementation has been beset by a host of significant problems since day one. The SIGMA Act of 2014 is a strong step towards realizing the goals of government accountability and transparency, and we look forward to working with you to enact the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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