

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2181

To amend chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, to establish a for-cause removal standard for Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BROWN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. BELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. TLAIB) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, to establish a for-cause removal standard for Inspectors General, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect Our Watch-
5 dogs Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FOR CAUSE REMOVAL STANDARD FOR INSPECTORS**

2 **GENERAL.**

3 Chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in section 403(b)—

6 (A) by striking “(b) REMOVAL OR TRANS-
7 FER.—” and inserting:

8 “(b) REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.—

9 “(1)(A) An”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated,
11 by inserting after “by the President” the fol-
12 lowing: “in accordance with paragraph (3)”;
13 and

14 (C) by inserting at the end the following:

15 “(3) The President may remove an Inspector
16 General only for any of the following grounds (and
17 the documentation of any such ground shall be in-
18 cluded in the communication required pursuant to
19 paragraph (1)):

20 “(A) Documented permanent incapacity.

21 “(B) Documented neglect of duty.

22 “(C) Documented malfeasance.

23 “(D) Documented conviction of a felony or
24 conduct involving moral turpitude.

25 “(E) Documented knowing violation of a
26 law or regulation.

1 “(F) Documented gross mismanagement.

2 “(G) Documented gross waste of funds.

3 “(H) Documented abuse of authority.

4 “(I) Documented inefficiency.”; and

5 (2) in section 415(e)(2)—

6 (A) by striking “TRANSFERRED.—If” and

7 inserting the following: “TRANSFERRED.—

8 “(A) If”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated,

10 by adding at the end the following: “An Inspec-

11 tor General may be removed only for any of the

12 following grounds (and the documentation of

13 any such ground shall be included in the com-

14 munication required pursuant to this para-

15 graph):

16 “(i) Documented permanent inca-

17 pacity.

18 “(ii) Documented neglect of duty.

19 “(iii) Documented malfeasance.

20 “(iv) Documented conviction of a fel-

21 ony or conduct involving moral turpitude.

22 “(v) Documented knowing violation of

23 a law or regulation.

24 “(vi) Documented gross mismanage-

25 ment.

1 “(vii) Documented gross waste of
2 funds.

3 “(viii) Documented abuse of author-
4 ity.

5 “(ix) Documented inefficiency.”.

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