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MEMORANDUM

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TO: KATE DOHERTY

FROM: LAUREN HOWES

DATE: JUNE 25, 2021

RE: H.R. 2662 - IG INDEPENDENCE AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

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BLUF:

- This bill addresses issues surrounding inspector generals and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). This bill seeks to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to allow for more accountability and transparency.

Background:

- Sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney – House Oversight and Reform Committee
- The bill changes current law to ensure an Inspector General can only be removed for cause, such as “documented malfeasance”.
  - Congress must be notified before an IG is suspended from duty and when a Member of Congress closes an allegation against an IG without investigation.
- The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) must now “report semiannually to Congress and the President” on their activities.
- The Inspectors General can subpoena non-government workers and the IG DOJ can investigate DOJ attorney wrongdoings.
- Under current law, IGs can avoid testifying by leaving their government job. This would hold them more accountable.

Discussion:

- Rep. James Comer, Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, voted **against** the bill in committee roll call, along with all other committee Republicans.

- Two similar bills have been proposed in the House
  - H.R. 2089 (117<sup>th</sup>) – IG Subpoena Authority Act (Sponsored by Rep. Jimmy Gomez)
  - H.R. 23 (117<sup>th</sup>) – Inspector General Protection Act (Sponsored by Rep. Ted Lieu)
    - Passed House by voice vote
- Cost: The CBO estimates that H.R. 2662 would cost “\$52 million over the 2022-2026 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.”