

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2010

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Fiscal Responsibility Legislation

April 28, 2010

Today the House took another critical step toward increased fiscal responsibility by passing the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act. This bipartisan legislation will help save taxpayer dollars by reining in wasteful overpayments from the Federal Government to individuals, organizations, and contractors, the kind of unacceptable accounting mistakes that cost taxpayers \$98 billion in 2009. This bill also puts in place more rigorous thresholds for when programs must be scrutinized for payment errors and expands the authority of Federal agencies to use private sector auditors to find and recapture Government overpayments. And it dramatically increases transparency and accountability in Government spending. In short, it changes business as usual in Washington.

I believe that we have a special responsibility to be wise stewards of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. That's why last November, I issued an Executive order to curb improper payments by boosting transparency, holding agencies accountable, and creating strong incentives for compliance. And it's why this March, I signed an order calling on all Federal agencies to launch tough audits to recover some of the money lost to improper payments last year. I applaud the House for passing legislation today that supports these goals, and I hope that the Senate will take swift action to send a bill to my desk as soon as possible.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3393. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Categories: Statements by the President : Fiscal responsibility legislation, House of Representatives passage.

Subjects: Budget, Federal : Government programs, spending reductions; Government organization and employees : Accountability and transparency, strengthening efforts; Government organization and employees : Improper payments in Federal programs, reduction efforts; Government organization and employees : Payment recapture audits, expansion of use; Legislation, proposed : "Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2009".

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