

HILL ALERT



Ensure Proper Accountability for the Department of Justice

This morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee will have an opportunity to improve accountability for the Department of Justice (DOJ) by supporting the Inspector General Access Act of 2019—a bill sponsored by an impressive array of bipartisan champions of fairness and professional standards for government employees. We strongly urge your support of S. 685.

Unlike most federal agencies with an inspector general, the DOJ's Inspector General surprisingly does not have the authority to investigate matters of alleged professional misconduct by DOJ attorneys. This legislation will empower the DOJ's Inspector General to provide much-needed independent oversight that will help ensure that attorneys representing the federal government are held to standards for professional conduct. By definition and longstanding practice, inspectors general are best-suited to facilitate investigations into waste, fraud, and abuse within their relevant agency's jurisdiction. As a result, inspectors general are a valuable resource for the American taxpayer, as well as for the health of the federal government. For more on the important reasons behind the immense bipartisan support of this legislation, please see this [coalition letter](#) signed by more than 25 public policy and advocacy groups from across the political spectrum.

We strongly urge you to support the Inspector General Access Act (S. 685) this morning at markup and to oppose any amendments—including one proposed by Senator Lindsey Graham—that would weaken this pursuit of accountability at a time when our nation needs it most. The Graham amendment attempts to undermine the legislation by giving the Attorney General nearly complete control over whether the DOJ's Inspector General can conduct independent, transparent investigations of potential misconduct by federal attorneys who hold immense power and responsibility in their hands.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact Shana O'Toole (202-558-6683 or Shana@iDueProcess.org) or Jason Pye (202-942-7634 or jpye@freedomworks.org).