

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**TODD RUSSELL PLATTS (R-PA.), CHAIRMAN**



**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**OF**  
**REP. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**  
**JULY 14, 2004**

---

When Congress passed the Inspector General Act in 1978 in response to major management scandals within the federal government, we added an important balance to our system of separation of powers. Congress envisioned IGs as permanent, independent, non-partisan, and objective.

This Subcommittee commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IG Act with a hearing last year. We talked about the results we've seen through the work of IGs government-wide: billions of dollars in savings, thousands of successful criminal prosecutions, and agencies and IGs working together to make government more effective and more accountable.

We also talked about the future and what changes we might need to make IGs even more effective. At that time, we were joined by my esteemed colleague, Mr. Cooper of Tennessee, who has spent considerable time on this issue. Mr. Cooper has introduced legislation that would grant IGs more autonomy and independence by limiting arbitrary or political dismissal of IGs by creating a fixed term of office and defining reasons for removal; freeing IGs from the agency appropriations process; creating a statutory basis for the government-wide IG councils, which now operate under executive order; and providing human capital management flexibility to IG offices.

Mr. Cooper, thank you for joining us again today. We look forward to discussing these options and other considerations that would enhance the effectiveness of IGs across the federal government.

At our last hearing to discuss this issue, we were also pleased to have Mr. Gianni and Mr. Snyder, both of whom are here with us again today. Mr. George joins us as well, and we are pleased to welcome him back to the Subcommittee for which he served as Staff Director.

All of you offer very important perspectives on the effect of any legislative proposals, both from your role as an Inspector General and from your leadership positions within the IG Councils. Thank you for testifying today.