



# UCOWF Statement on The House Oversight & Government Reform Committee’s Fraud, Waste & Abuse Mark-up

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“Earlier this week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released an updated estimate on the annual federal cost of fraud, waste and abuse (FWA), finding that year-over-year growth was more than \$24 billion. Even worse, testimony before several Congressional Committees now place total federal and state FWA taxpayer exposure at a minimum of \$500 billion and some more than \$1 trillion.

“These are grave issues that are sadly widespread nationwide. So, on behalf of the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) we sincerely appreciate Chairman Comer and his colleagues’ attention and efforts to rein in these excesses. UCOWF believes the bills under consideration today are excellent first steps in addressing the fraud that runs rampant in all our federal benefits.

“Last year, Dawn Royal, UCOWF Past President, had the opportunity to testify before this Committee’s DOGE Subcommittee. In her comments, Dawn detailed what must be done to restore fiscal sanity. She eloquently explained that you simply cannot have ‘affordability’ without first having ‘accountability’, because you can’t see the fraud if you’re not looking for it – and boy, is it out there for all of us to see.  
([https://www.ucowf.net/assets/pdf/United+Council+on+Welfare+Fraud+testimony+f+Dawn+Royal+to+House+Oversight+DOGE+Subcommittee\\_12Feb2025+Version+3/](https://www.ucowf.net/assets/pdf/United+Council+on+Welfare+Fraud+testimony+f+Dawn+Royal+to+House+Oversight+DOGE+Subcommittee_12Feb2025+Version+3/) )

Again, we applaud this Committee for leading the charge and look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to help restore the public’s confidence.”

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UCOWF is the only national professional organization solely focused on the prevention, detection, prosecution, and recovery of fraud in government public assistance programs. Our members are the boots on the ground, the first responders to these issues – from the county, state, and federal levels.  
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