



Independent Women's Voice Supports H.R. 7677, Closing the Provider Fraud Gap Act

April 21, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

Independent Women's Voice supports H.R. 7677, [**Closing the Provider Fraud Gap Act**](#), introduced by Representative Burgess Owens (R-UT) and co-sponsored by Representative Julia Letlow (R-LA). This legislation directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine fraud prevention measures across federal early childhood education, child care, and child nutrition programs, assess vulnerabilities in provider payments, and identify opportunities to strengthen program integrity.

Programs designed to support children and families should be structured to deliver resources efficiently and as intended. Yet as these programs have grown in size and complexity, oversight has not always kept pace. Gaps in data, uneven administration, and diffuse accountability can create conditions where improper payments and fraud occur, often without timely detection.

Dollars lost to fraud are dollars that never reach families who rely on these programs, and persistent integrity issues can erode public trust in these programs and the government overall. Simply layering on additional requirements, without taking the time to actually understand where breakdowns occur, risks increasing administrative burden without addressing the underlying problem.

H.R. 7677 takes a measured and constructive approach. A comprehensive, independent assessment by the Government Accountability Office can help pinpoint the inadequacies of current systems and identify where focused reforms would be most impactful. That kind of groundwork is essential to ensuring that future policy responses are both responsible and durable.

Independent Women's Voice urges members of Congress to take prompt action on H.R. 7677, and we commend Representatives Owens and Letlow for their leadership in advancing this effort. We stand ready to work with you to strengthen program integrity and ensure these programs serve families as intended.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrice Onwuka', with a large, stylized initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrice Onwuka
Vice President for Economic Policy
Independent Women's Voice