

Every Conservative Senate Finance Committee Member Considering Billy Long's IRS Nomination—Which Is Marred By Scandal Over His Role Peddling A Fraud-Plagued Pandemic Tax Credit—Has Taken Positions Against Pandemic Aid Fraudsters

SUMMARY: President Trump has [picked](#) former Rep. Billy Long (R-MO) to lead the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Long, a longtime [Trump loyalist](#) who is likely to [politicize](#) the IRS's operations and has little relevant experience, has repeatedly co-sponsored legislation to [abolish the IRS](#) and replace the income tax with a regressive sales tax that would burden low- and middle-income families.

Notably, after Long left Congress in 2023, he "[quickly set out to make money](#)" and began enrolling businesses in the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), a pandemic-era tax credit that became a "[magnet for fraud](#)" that has cost the federal government billions of dollars. Long disclosed earning over [\\$247,000](#) from referral and consulting fees related to the ERTC, including income from a company selling tax credits the Treasury department "[says doesn't exist](#)." More troubling, after his nomination, Long's \$130,000 debt owed to his failed 2022 U.S. Senate campaign was suddenly paid off by donors whose firms have "[significant, often contentious business](#)" before the IRS.

With Long's confirmation hearing to be IRS Commissioner seen as potentially "[awkward \[...\] for some republicans who have also complained of ERC fraud](#)," Accountable.US has found that every single Republican Senate Finance Committee member likely to support Long's nomination has been vocal about pandemic relief fraud or has cosponsored legislation to remedy the issue:

- **Senate Finance Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID)** said fraudulent ERTC claims were "[clogging](#)" the IRS, co-introduced a bill to "[combat fraud](#)" in pandemic Unemployment Insurance (UI), [introduced](#) the "[Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act](#)," and wrote a column calling COVID UI fraud "[the greatest theft of taxpayer dollars in history](#)."
- **Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)** [introduced](#) a bill to amend the False Claims Act to, he said in 2021, "[fight the significant amounts of fraud that we are already seeing](#)" in pandemic aid. Sen. Grassley also took credit for a 1986 False Claims Act provision which he said led to [\\$1.6 billion](#) in fraud recoveries in the first year of the pandemic.
- **Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)** [cosponsored](#) the current "[Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act](#)," which covered ERTC Fraud, and posted an article about pandemic UI fraud while saying, "[when Republicans regain the majority, this should be a high priority](#)."
- **Sen. John Thune (R-SD)** [cosponsored](#) the "[Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022](#)" to advance "[aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud](#)" in pandemic UI relief.
- **Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)** criticized the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) "[spotty track record regarding fraud in its pandemic-era programs](#)" while introducing a bill to block direct lending by the SBA. He also criticized "[\\$79 billion in potentially fraudulent EIDL loans](#)" handled by the SBA in a related letter he led.

- **Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)** [cosponsored](#) “The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022,” a bill to advance “[aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud](#)” in pandemic UI.
- **Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)** introduced the “[Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act](#),” which would cover ERTC fraud, saying it would serve in “[tracking down those who defrauded taxpayers and make sure justice is served](#).” Lankford has also cosponsored the “[Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022](#)” and other legislation to “[combat fraud](#)” in pandemic UI programs.
- **Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)** took credit for securing over \$1 million to “[combat](#)” pandemic UI fraud and signed a [letter](#) asking the Biden Administration for progress on preventing [fraudulent pandemic UI claims](#) and recouping stolen funding.
- **Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)** [cosponsored](#) the “[Complete COVID Collections Act](#),” a bill to preserve the pandemic special inspector general and to expand its jurisdiction over SBA pandemic programs, and cosponsored a bill to “[combat fraud](#)” in pandemic UI fraud.
- **Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)** signed a letter that cited “[immense fraud](#)” as it asked President Biden for an accounting of federal pandemic relief, and cosponsored legislation to “[combat fraud](#)” in pandemic UI programs.
- **Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)** [cosponsored](#) the current “[Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act](#),” which would cover the ERTC, in extending the statute of limitations for violations of pandemic relief programs.
- **Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)** is a [cosponsor](#) of the current “[Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act](#),” which would cover the ERTC, and [cosponsored](#) the ERTC Repeal Act, saying it was “[past time to eliminate this fraud-ridden pandemic-era policy](#).”
- **Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)** [cosponsored](#) the current “[Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act](#),” which would cover the ERTC; cosponsored the “[Complete COVID Collections Act](#),” which she said would “[recoup funding that was wrongfully awarded to criminals](#)”; and cosponsored the “[Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022](#).”
- **Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS)** [cosponsored](#) the “Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022,” a bill that would have advanced “[aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud](#)” in pandemic aid programs.

Trump’s Internal Revenue Service Nominee (IRS) Former Rep. Billy Long (R-MO) Is A Longtime Trump Loyalist Who “Quickly Set Out To Make Money” And Began Enrolling Businesses In The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), A Pandemic-Era Tax Credit That Became A “Magnet For Fraud” That Has Cost The Federal Government Billions Of Dollars.

Trump's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Pick Former Rep. Billy Long (R-MO), Has Little Experience Working In Tax Policy Or In The Tax Industry And Did Not Serve On The House's Main Tax-Writing Committee While In Congress.

President-Elect Trump Has Selected Former Rep. Billy Long (R-MO), Who Backed Legislation That "Aimed To Wipe Out Much Of The Tax Code," To Lead The Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

"President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday said he wants ex-congressman Billy Long, a Republican from Missouri and a former auctioneer, to run the IRS. As a lawmaker, Long co-sponsored legislation that aimed to wipe out much of the tax code." [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

- **Long Served In Congress From January 2011 To January 2023, Before Stepping Down For A Failed Bid To Be In The U.S. Senate.** "LONG, Billy, a Representative from Missouri; born in Springfield, Greene County, Mo., August 11, 1955; attended University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., 1973-1976; graduated from the Missouri Auction School, 1979; Certified Auctioneers Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., 1983; owner auctioneer business, 1979-2011; radio personality; elected as a Republican to the One Hundred Twelfth and to the five succeeding Congresses (January 3, 2011-January 3, 2023); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress in 2022, but was an unsuccessful candidate for nomination to the United States Senate." [Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, accessed [12/06/24](#)]

Trump Praised Long For His Roles "Running His Own Businesses In Real Estate And, As One Of The Premier Auctioneers In The Country," And Noted Long Has Been A Business And Tax Adviser Since Leaving Congress In 2023. "In making the announcement, Trump praised Long's '32 years of experience running his own businesses in Real Estate and, as one of the premier Auctioneers in the Country.' He also noted that since leaving Congress in 2023, Long has worked as a business and tax adviser." [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

While In Congress, Long Did Not Serve On The House Ways And Means Committee, The House's "Main Tax-Writing Committee." "During his time in Congress, Long served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Homeland Security Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – but not on the House's main tax-writing committee." [CNN, [12/05/24](#)]

Long, A Springfield Native, Owned An Auctioneer Business From 1979 To 2011, Has Been A Real Estate Broker, Radio Host, And As Of 2023, Was A Realtor With Missouri's Murney Associates. "Long is a Springfield native. He owned his own auctioneer business from 1979 to 2011, according to his Congressional biography. Long has also worked as a real estate broker and radio host. As of July 2023, Long has been a Realtor with Murney Associates, according to the Missouri Real Estate Commission." [Springfield News-Leader, [12/09/24](#)]

Long's "Background Is Largely Outside Of The Tax Industry" And His "Lack Of Tax Industry Experience Sets Him Apart From Other Recent IRS Commissioners." "Long has recently served as a tax adviser to businesses seeking to employ a controversial tax credit, but, unlike prior IRS commissioners, his background is largely outside of the tax industry, experts noted." [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

- **Long's "Lack Of Tax Industry Experience Sets Him Apart From Other Recent IRS Commissioners," With Trump IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig Holding A Master's Degree In Taxation, Working For Over Three Decades As A Tax Attorney, And Serving As Chairman Of The IRS Advisory Council.** "How does Long's experience compare with prior IRS commissioners? Long's lack of tax industry experience sets him apart from other recent IRS commissioners. Werfel, the current IRS chief, has an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a master's degree in public policy from Duke University as well as a law degree from the University of North Carolina. [...] Werfel's

predecessor, Charles Rettig, who was appointed by President-elect Trump, also held several degrees, including a master's in taxation. Before joining the IRS, Rettig worked as a tax attorney for more than three decades and served as the chairman of the IRS Advisory Council.” [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

- **Long Attended The University Of Missouri But Did Not Graduate.** “Long, who attended the University of Missouri but didn't graduate, described himself on a website for his congressional run as a ‘fourth-generation native of Southwest Missouri.’ He touted his skills as an auctioneer, noting that he had been named the ‘best auctioneer in the Ozarks for seven years in a row.’” [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

While In Congress, Long Repeatedly Co-Sponsored Legislation To Abolish The IRS And Replace The Income Tax, Estate Tax, And Other With A Regressive 30% National Sales Tax, An Idea Trump Has “Flirted With.”

While In Congress, Long Co-Sponsored The Tax Code Termination Act, Legislation That Would Have “Wiped Out Much Of The Current Tax Code” And Replace It With A More Regressive System That Would Have Put More Burden On Low- And Middle-Income Taxpayers. “As a congressman, Long co-sponsored some tax-related bills, including several efforts to eliminate the estate tax as well as a measure called the Tax Code Termination Act. That legislation would have wiped out much of the current tax code, replacing it with what the bill called a ‘simple and fair system’ that would have applied ‘a low rate to all Americans.’ Such flat taxes are considered regressive by many experts because low- and middle-income taxpayers would end up paying a larger share of their incomes than would wealthy Americans.” [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

While In Congress, Long Repeatedly Co-Sponsored Legislation To “Abolish The IRS And Replace The Income Tax, The Payroll Tax, The Estate Tax, And The Gift Tax With A 30 Percent Sales Tax.” “When Long was in Congress, he co-sponsored, in three consecutive sessions, a bill to abolish the IRS and replace the income tax, the payroll tax, the estate tax, and the gift tax with a 30 percent sales tax.” [The New Republic, [12/06/24](#)]

- **Legislation To Abolish The IRS Has Been Opposed Even By The Wall Street Journal’s Editorial Page And Grover Norquist, The “Inventor Of The Taxpayer Protection Pledge That Bound Politicians Never, Ever To Raise Taxes.”** “Even Grover Norquist, inventor of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge that bound politicians never, ever to raise taxes—and who famously said he wanted to shrink government ‘down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub’—urged Republicans to kill the bill. So did The Wall Street Journal’s editorial page.” [The New Republic, [12/06/24](#)]
- **Long Co-Sponsored Legislation To Abolish The IRS And To Create A National Sales Tax “Right After Joining Congress” Following His 2010 Election.** “Long, 69 years old, entered Congress in the tea party wave of 2010, declaring himself fed up with the state of the country and winning a crowded primary in a heavily Republican district. Right after joining Congress, he co-sponsored a bill to create a national sales tax and abolish the IRS.” [The Wall Street Journal, [12/08/24](#)]

Trump Has “Flirted With” The Idea Of A National Sales Tax. “It is unclear how Mr. Long would approach the I.R.S. push to modernize. He once sponsored legislation that sought to abolish the tax agency and replace the income tax with a sales tax, a concept Mr. Trump has flirted with. But Mr. Long did not serve on the tax-writing committee in the House, and he is unknown to some key Senate Republicans who will decide his fate.” [The New York Times, [12/06/24](#)]

Long—Who Is Not An Accountant Or CPA—“Quickly Set Out To Make Money” And Began Enrolling Businesses In The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), A Pandemic-Era Tax Credit That Became A “Magnet For Fraud” That Has Cost The Federal Government Billions Of Dollars.

After Leaving Congress In 2023, Long “Quickly Set Out To Make Money” And Began Encouraging People To File For The Employee Retention Tax Credit, A “Lucrative, Pandemic-Era Tax Credit” That The IRS Has Warned Is A “Magnet For Fraud.” “Since leaving Congress in 2023, Billy Long has peddled a pandemic-era tax credit that the I.R.S. has warned is a magnet for fraud. [...] When Billy Long, now President-elect Donald J. Trump’s pick to lead the Internal Revenue Service, left Congress in 2023, he quickly set out to make money. Building off the relationships he developed as a Republican from Missouri and auctioneer, Mr. Long began encouraging people to file for a lucrative, pandemic-era tax credit. At meetings with chapters of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce across the country and at an auctioneering convention in Oklahoma, Mr. Long sometimes wore a hat advertising the Employee Retention Tax Credit as he tried to drum up business.” [The New York Times, [12/06/24](#)]

Long Is Not An Accountant Or A Certified Public Accountant, But He Has “Been Involved In Tax Advising Since Leaving Congress,” Touting His Work Helping Businesses Apply For The ERTC. “While Long isn’t an accountant or CPA, he has been involved in tax advising since leaving Congress. In a 2023 podcast, for example, he touted his work helping businesses use the Employee Retention Tax Credit, a credit that the IRS has flagged for its high rate of fraud.” [CBS News, [12/06/24](#)]

Long, A Longtime Trump Loyalist Who Previously Pushed The IRS To Potentially Strip Tax-Exempt Status From The Humane Society, Will Be Scrutinized For Politically Interfering In IRS Operations And Could Have New Powers If Pending Legislation Is Passed.

John Koskinen, Who Served As IRS Commissioner In The Obama Administration, Reportedly Warned That “Trump’s Move Will Increase Scrutiny Of Whether He Is Interfering In The Operations Of The IRS For Political Purposes.” “Trump’s move will increase scrutiny of whether he is interfering in the operations of the IRS for political purposes, said John Koskinen, who was appointed commissioner of the IRS by President Barack Obama. Koskinen came under political fire over the IRS’s handling of conservative organizations and eventually faced an impeachment effort by Republicans — but Trump allowed him to serve out his term when he took office in 2017. ‘There’s no Republican or Democratic way to run the tax system and administer it fairly,’ Koskinen said. ‘So this is a change. ... You just don’t want people to feel that the IRS is a political entity, and it’s picking and choosing who to go after and who not to go after.’” [The Washington Post, [12/05/24](#)]

Long Was One Of Trump’s First Endorsers, Urging People To Join The “Trump Train” Early On, And Continuing To Vocally Push Trump In 2023, “Distributing Fake \$45 Bills Featuring Trump’s Picture” On Capitol Hill. “Before leaving Congress in early 2023, Long walked around Capitol Hill distributing fake \$45 bills featuring Trump’s picture. He hangs on to a striped tie—signed by Trump—that Long wore at a Nevada event early in Trump’s first campaign. Trump has pointed out publicly that Long was one of his first endorsers, encouraging people to board what Long called the “Trump train” while other Republicans were wary.” [The Wall Street Journal, [12/08/24](#)]

If Confirmed As IRS Commissioner, Long “Would Be In A Position To Strip — And Effectively Shut Down — The Tax Status Of Such Nonprofit Groups” That Disagree With Trump. “If former Missouri Republican Rep. Billy Long is confirmed to run the Internal Revenue Services (IRS), he would be in a position to strip — and effectively shut down — the tax status of such nonprofit groups whose missions he disagrees with.” [The Lever, [12/04/24](#)]

Long Could Have New Powers To Shut Down Nonprofit Organizations If Congress Passes Pending Legislation To “Rescind The Tax Status Of Groups It Deems ‘Terrorist Supporting Organizations.’” “And Long could have new powers to do so if Congress enacts a pending House-passed bill to grant the Trump administration new powers to rescind the tax status of groups it deems ‘terrorist supporting organizations.’” [The Lever, [12/04/24](#)]

While In Congress, Long Pressed The IRS To Investigate And Possibly Revoke The Tax-Exempt Status Of The Humane Society Of The United States After It Supported A “Successful Missouri Ballot Measure Strengthening Regulations On Dog Breeders.” “Donald Trump’s pick to head the Internal Revenue Service pressed the agency to investigate and consider stripping the country’s leading animal welfare group of its tax status after it supported an initiative to protect dogs, according to documents reviewed by The Lever. [...] In 2011, Long signed a letter pushing the IRS to launch a probe of the tax-exempt status of the Humane Society of the United States, a nonprofit that focuses on animal welfare and opposes animal cruelty. The letter followed the Humane Society’s support of a successful Missouri ballot measure strengthening regulations on dog breeders.” [The Lever, [12/04/24](#)]

Senate Finance Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) Said Fraudulent ERTC Claims Were “Clogging” The IRS, Co-Introduced A Bill To “Combat Fraud” In Pandemic Unemployment Insurance (UI), Introduced The “Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act,” And Wrote A Column Calling COVID UI Fraud “The Greatest Theft Of Taxpayer Dollars In History.”

2023: Senate Finance Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) Said Fraudulent ERTC Fraud Claims Were “Clogging The IRS And Leading To Significant Delays For Legitimate Claimants” While Pressing Then-IRS Commissioner Nominee Daniel Werfel For A Plan On The Matter.

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Then-Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member, Raised Concerns About ERTC Fraud At The Nomination Hearing For IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel, Noting, “I Also Have Heard That There Have Been Numerous Fraudulent ERTC Claims, Which Are Clogging The IRS And Leading To Significant Delays For Legitimate Claimants.” “On February 15, 2023, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Daniel Werfel to be the new IRS Commissioner. Supplemental to that hearing, Mr. Werfel responded to a set of questions posed by Senators in writing. [...] Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID): ‘A number of my colleagues and I are concerned about the IRS’s processing of employee retention tax credit (ERTC) claims, and hear from both constituents, stakeholders, and even the local taxpayer advocate that IRS delays in processing these vital payments are harming taxpayers (and tax administration). I also have heard that there have been numerous fraudulent ERTC claims, which are clogging the IRS and leading to significant delays for legitimate claimants. If confirmed, will you provide me within 90 days of being sworn in a detailed response regarding the current backlog of ERTC claims, including a concrete description of what you plan to do to resolve these and address issues of fraudulent claims?’” [Experian, [03/02/23](#)]

2024: In Response To Unemployment Insurance Fraud During The COVID Pandemic, Sen. Crapo Co-Introduced Legislation To “Combat Fraud” By Increasing UI System Integrity, Saying The Bill Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

July 2024: Sen. Crapo Co-Introduced The Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Unemployment Insurance Programs In Response To Fraudulent

Claims During The COVID Pandemic—Crapo And Co-Lead Sponsor Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) Said The Bill Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

“Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Ranking Member Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and 10 Senate cosponsors introduced bipartisan legislation today that would make key improvements to the nation’s unemployment insurance system. The legislation, titled the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, would focus on program administration and integrity to combat fraud and improve access to benefits for eligible workers. ‘The Covid-19 pandemic showed that unemployment insurance systems were too often unable to keep up with the needs of American workers and too vulnerable to fraud,’ Wyden and Crapo said. ‘This bipartisan bill will go a long way to making the UI system more accessible to workers who need it and protecting taxpayer dollars by recouping and preventing fraud.’” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]

- **The Bill Did Not Advance Past The Senate Finance Committee:**

S.4663 - Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Wyden, Ron \[D-OR\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2024)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: 🟢 **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

2022: Sen. Crapo Was The Lead Sponsor For The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act, With Crapo Pushing For “Detecting And Preventing The Massive Fraud In Federal Unemployment Insurance Programs,” Which He Said Threatened The Federal Budget.

August 2022: Sen. Crapo And Other Senators Announced The The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act, With Crapo Stating, “The Administration Needs To Step Up And Join Us In Detecting And Preventing The Massive Fraud In Federal Unemployment Insurance Programs That We Have Seen, Including Systemic Fraud, Internationally Organized Criminal Fraud Rings, And Other Threats To Our Systems, Programs And The Federal Budget.” “Today, U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and Mike Crapo (R-ID), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, announced the introduction of the Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act to recover funds from fraudulent pandemic unemployment payments and provide incentives for states to recover fraudulent payments. [...] ‘The Administration needs to step up and join us in detecting and preventing the massive fraud in federal unemployment insurance programs that we have seen, including systemic fraud, internationally organized criminal fraud rings, and other threats to our systems, programs and the federal budget,’ said Ranking Member Crapo.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

- **The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”** “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal

fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

- **Sen. Crapo Was The Lead Sponsor Of The Bill, Which Did Not Advance Past The Senate Finance Committee:**

S.4507 - Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022
117th Congress (2021-2022)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Crapo, Mike \[R-ID\]](#) (Introduced 07/12/2022)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: ⓘ **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

2022: Sen. Crapo Wrote A Column Titled “The Greatest Theft Of Taxpayer Dollars In History,” Noting An Estimated \$163 Billion In COVID Unemployment Fraud.

July 2022: Sen. Crapo Wrote A Column Titled “The Greatest Theft Of Taxpayer Dollars In History,” Pointing Out An Estimated \$163 Billion In COVID Unemployment Fraud While Taking Credit For Introducing The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022. “Unemployment fraud during the pandemic has been the greatest theft of taxpayer dollars in American history. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) estimates unemployment fraud has left taxpayers on the hook for \$163 billion, or more, and only around \$4 billion has been recovered. [...] I introduced the Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022 in the Senate to jumpstart efforts to claw back these stolen funds by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs, and to provide incentives for states to recover fraudulent payments.” [Sen. Mike Crapo, [07/25/22](#)]

July 25, 2022

Weekly Column: The Greatest Theft Of Taxpayer Dollars In History

Guest column submitted by U.S. Senator Mike Crapo

[Sen. Mike Crapo, [07/25/22](#)]

2021: Sen. Crapo Co-Introduced The Recovering Fraudulent Claims Act, A Bill To Establish A COVID Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force, With Crapo Saying “Criminals Have Stolen Hundreds Of Billions Of Dollars From Funds That Were Intended To Help Those Experiencing Hardship.”

September 2021: Sen. Crapo Co-Introduced The Recovering Fraudulent Claims Act, Legislation To Establish A COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force—Crapo Said, “Criminals Have Stolen Hundreds Of Billions Of Dollars From Funds That Were Intended To Help Those Experiencing Hardship During The Pandemic,” [...] ‘We Must Make Every Effort To Protect American Taxpayers From Further Abuse.’” “U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.), a member of the Senate Committee on Finance, and

Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Finance, today introduced the Recovering Fraudulent Claims Act. This legislation would establish the COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force to investigate alleged instances of fraud in the temporary unemployment insurance programs established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136) in March 2020. [...] ‘Criminals have stolen hundreds of billions of dollars from funds that were intended to help those experiencing hardship during the pandemic,’ said Crapo. ‘We must make every effort to protect American taxpayers from further abuse, and this bill will bolster the effectiveness of the task force that was established to do so.’” [Sen. John Thune, [09/14/21](#)]

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) Introduced A Bill To Amend The False Claims Act To “Fight The Significant Amounts Of Fraud That We Are Already Seeing” In Pandemic Aid, While Taking Credit For A 1986 False Claims Act Provision Which Led To \$1.6 Billion In Fraud Recoveries In The First Year Of The Pandemic.

2021: Sen. Grassley Introduced The False Claims Amendments Act Of 2021 To, He Said, “Fight The Significant Amounts Of Fraud That We Are Already Seeing” In COVID Relief Programs”...

2021: Sen. Grassley Led A Bipartisan Group Of Senators In Introducing The False Claims Amendments Act Of 2021 To “Beef Up The Government’s Most Potent Tool To Fight Fraud,” With Grassley Noting “These Bills Are Needed, More Than Ever, To Fight The Significant Amounts Of Fraud That We Are Already Seeing,” In COVID Relief Programs. “A bipartisan group of senators, led by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), introduced the False Claims Amendments Act of 2021 to beef up the government’s most potent tool to fight fraud. ‘The False Claims Act has clearly been the best tool to fight fraud against the government and recover lost taxpayer dollars. Tens of billions of dollars have been returned to the federal treasury since my updates of 35 years ago. The legislation we introduced today will help recoup even more money by clarifying confusion after the Escobar case. The Administrative False Claims Act will significantly improve the process for smaller claims. I look forward to pushing for these bills to become law, and continuing my work to protect taxpayers and whistleblowers who shine a light on fraud, waste and abuse. In light of the trillions of dollars that Congress has appropriated recently for COVID relief, these bills are needed, more than ever, to fight the significant amounts of fraud that we are already seeing,’ Grassley said.” [Sen. Chuck Grassley, [07/26/21](#)]

- **The Bill Did Not Pass The Senate:**

S.2428 - False Claims Amendments Act of 2021
117th Congress (2021-2022)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Grassley, Chuck \[R-IA\]](#) (Introduced 07/22/2021)

Committees: Senate - Judiciary

Committee Meetings: [10/28/21 9:00AM](#) [10/21/21 9:00AM](#) [10/07/21 9:00AM](#) ([All Meetings](#))

Latest Action: Senate - 11/16/2021 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 166. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: ⓘ **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

...Grassley Took Credit For A Provision Responsible For Over Two-Thirds Of False Claims Act Fraud Recoveries Since 1987 That Led To Over \$1.6 Billion False Claims Act Recoveries In 2020, The First Year Of The Pandemic.

Sen. Grassley's Press Release For The Bill Touted His 1986 Effort To Update The False Claims Act By Allowing Whistleblowers To Share In Suits They File Against Alleged Fraudsters, A Provision Known As Qui Tam Which Grassley's Office Said Was Responsible For Over Two-Thirds Of False Claims Act Recoveries Since 1987. "In 1986, Grassley led the successful effort to update the False Claims Act, which allows the government to recover taxpayer dollars from entities that defrauded federal agencies. A key provision in that update, known as qui tam, allows whistleblowers to bring suits against alleged fraudsters on behalf of the government and share in any recoveries. That provision is credited with more than two-thirds of all False Claims Act recoveries since 1987." [Sen. Chuck Grassley, [07/26/21](#)]

Sen. Grassley's Release Credited His Qui Tam Provision For Over \$1.6 Billion In False Claims Act Claims Recovered In Fiscal Year 2020, The First Year Of The Pandemic. "In January, the Justice Department announced the successful recovery of over \$2.2 billion through False Claims Act cases that would have otherwise been lost to fraud in FY2020. More \$1.6 billion of those claims were recovered through Grassley's qui tam provisions. A total of more than \$64 billion in taxpayer money has been recovered since the 1986 update to the law." [Sen. Chuck Grassley, [07/26/21](#)]

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) Cosponsored The Current "Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act," Which Covered ERTC Fraud, And Posted An Article About Pandemic Relief Fraud While Saying, "When Republicans Regain The Majority, This Should Be A High Priority."

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) Is Currently A Cosponsor Of The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Which Would Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs, Including The ERTC, Established Under The CARES Act.

Sen. John Cornyn Is A Cosponsor Of S. 121, The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Introduced January 16, 2025. [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The Recover COVID Funds Act Extends The Statute Of Limitations To Ten Years For Violations Of COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Programs, Including Those Established Under The CARES Act. "This bill extends the statute of limitations (i.e., time limit for bringing a legal action) to 10 years for criminal and civil violations involving specified COVID-19 pandemic relief programs, such as violations involving fraudulent activity." [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

- **The Bill Covers Programs That Were Established Under The CARES Act And Other Pandemic Relief Laws:**

A BILL

To extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act”.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO PANDEMIC-ERA PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “pandemic-era law” means—

(A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 ([Public Law 116–123](#); 134 Stat. 146);

(B) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([Public Law 116–127](#); 134 Stat. 177);

(C) the CARES Act ([Public Law 116–136](#); 134 Stat. 281);

(D) the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([Public Law 116–139](#); 134 Stat. 620);

(E) divisions M and N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 ([Public Law 116–260](#); 134 Stat. 1182);

(F) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ([Public Law 117–2](#); 135 Stat. 4); or

(G) an amendment made by a law described in subparagraphs (A) through (F); and

(2) the term “pandemic-era program violation” means an offense or other violation of law involving conduct that relates to or involves—

(A) a program, project, or activity that was authorized or established by, or was carried out under, a pandemic-era law; or

(B) funding provided under a pandemic-era law.

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The ERTC Was Established Under The CARES Act, Enacted On March 27, 2020. “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted on March 27, 2020, provides for an employee retention tax credit (Employee Retention Credit) that is designed to encourage Eligible Employers to keep employees on their payroll despite experiencing an economic hardship related to COVID-19.” [Internal Revenue Service, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

2022: Pointing To An Article Titled “Covid Fraud Hits \$45.6 Billion,” Sen. Cornyn Wrote, “When Republicans Regain The Majority, This Should Be A High Priority.”

October 2022: Sen. Cornyn Shared An Article Titled “Covid Fraud Hits \$45.6 Billion” And Said, “When Republicans Regain The Majority, This Should Be A High Priority”:



Senator John Cornyn  
@JohnCornyn



When Republicans regain the majority, this should be a high priority.

As the estimate of fraud in pandemic-era unemployment benefits mounts, Democrats refuse to do anything about it.

[wsj.com/articles/the-c... via @WSJ](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-covid-fraud-hits-45-6-billion-11601544000)



From [wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com)

9:44 AM · Oct 1, 2022

[X Post by @JohnCornyn, 10/01/22, accessed [04/15/25](https://www.wsj.com)]

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) Cosponsored The “The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022” To Advance “Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud” In Pandemic UI Relief.

2022: Senator John Thune Was A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022—A Bill That Would “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”

Sen. Thune Is A Co-Sponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022.

BILL

20. [S.4507](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/4507) — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022

Sponsor: [Crapo, Mike \[Sen.-R-ID\]](#) (Introduced 07/12/2022) Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/16/25](https://www.congress.gov)]

- **The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”** “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

Sen. Thune Said, “Billions Of Dollars Of Fraudulent Payments Have Been Made Through Pandemic-Related Unemployment Insurance Programs” And That This Legislation Would “Help Ensure These Fraudsters Are Held Accountable.” “‘South Dakotans expect that their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent wisely,’ said Thune. ‘Unfortunately, billions of dollars of fraudulent payments have been made through pandemic-related unemployment insurance programs since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This commonsense legislation would incentivize states to recover these stolen taxpayer dollars and help ensure these fraudsters are held accountable.’” [thune.senate.gov, [07/14/22](#)]

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) Criticized The U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA’s) “Spotty Track Record Regarding Fraud In Its Pandemic-Era Programs” While Introducing A Bill To Block Direct Lending By The SBA And Criticized “\$79 Billion In Potentially Fraudulent EIDL Loans” Handled By The SBA In A Related Letter.

March 2024: Sen. Tim Scott Introduced The Protecting Access To Credit For Small Business Act, A Bill To Block The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) From Expanding Its Direct Lending Authority, While Criticizing The SBA’s “Spotty Track Record Regarding Fraud In Its Pandemic-Era Programs.”

March 2024: Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC) Introduced The Protecting Access To Credit For Small Business Act, With He And Co-Lead Sponsor Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) Citing The U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA’s) “Spotty Track Record Regarding Fraud In Its Pandemic-Era Programs.” “As President Joe Biden entertains the idea of expanding the Small Business Administration’s direct lending capabilities, a pair of Republican lawmakers are looking to block that effort before it even begins. Senators John Kennedy (R-La.) and Tim Scott (R-S.C.) unveiled a two-page bill on Wednesday that would prevent the SBA from making direct loans via its flagship 7(a) loan program. Under the program’s current iteration, lenders hand out loans directly to small businesses—but the agency guarantees part of the loans to help alleviate the perceived risk of lending to entrepreneurs. The lawmakers cited the SBA’s spotty track record regarding fraud in its pandemic-era programs. The agency was most famously in charge of the Paycheck Protection Program and the Covid Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, which together distributed about \$1 trillion in emergency aid to America’s small businesses during the early years of the pandemic.” [Inc., [03/22/24](#)]

- **The Bill Was Called The Protecting Access To Credit For Small Business Act.** “The Senate bill is formally called the Protecting Access to Credit for Small Business Act and was co-sponsored by 11 additional Republican senators.” [Inc., [03/22/24](#)]
- **Sen. Scott Sponsored The Protecting Access To Credit For Small Business Act In 2024—The Bill Did Not Proceed Past The Senate Committee On Small Business And Entrepreneurship.** [Congress.gov, accessed [04/22/25](#)]

- **Sen. Scott Previously Introduced The Protecting Access To Credit For Small Businesses Act In 2021—The Bill Did Not Proceed Past The Senate Committee On Small Business And Entrepreneurship.** [Congress.gov, accessed [04/22/25](#)]


The Lawmakers’ “Chief Critique” Of The SBA Its Handling Of The “Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program,” Which Provided Direct 7(A) Loans And Experienced High Levels Of Fraud. “When acting as a direct lender, the SBA has a consistent history of failure and inefficiency when compared to the private sector,” Scott argued in a press release. ‘The administration’s proposal is just a vehicle for a big government overreach into nearly all aspects of American life and private institutions.’ The chief critique rests with the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which comprised direct loans and did experience high numbers of fraud. The SBA’s Inspector General estimated that more than \$200 billion worth of pandemic-era loans, including both EIDL and PPP, were potentially fraudulent. In other words, about 17 percent of the agency’s EIDL and PPP loans may have gone to fraudsters.” [Inc., [03/22/24](#)]

October 2021: Sen. Scott Led A Letter Opposing Plans To Make The SBA A Direct Lender, Criticizing “\$79 Billion In Potentially Fraudulent EIDL Loans Processed And Advanced” By The Agency And Warning That An SBA Direct Lending Program “Can Fall Into A Great Deal Of Fraud And Abuse.”

October 2021: Sen. Scott Led A Letter To Senate Leadership Opposing Plans To Make The SBA A Direct Lender. “U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and his Republican colleagues sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Small Business Committee Chair Ben Cardin, and House Small Business Committee Chair Nydia Velázquez warning against their plan to make the Small Business Administration (SBA) a direct lender through their \$3.5 trillion reconciliation plan.” [Sen. Tim Scott, [10/06/21](#)]

- **Sen. Scott Was The Lead Signer Of The Letter:**

Sincerely,


 Tim Scott
 United States Senator

[Sen. Tim Scott, [10/06/21](#)]

The Letter, Discussing The SBA’s Role In Distributing Pandemic Relief, Criticized “\$79 Billion In Potentially Fraudulent EIDL Loans Processed And Advanced” By The Agency. “While the PPP was massively successful in getting money out of the door and to borrowers that desperately needed relief, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) has seen rampant mismanagement, fraud, and waste. According to a recent analysis by the SBA Office of Inspector General, there have been \$79 billion in potentially fraudulent EIDL loans processed and advanced.” [Sen. Tim Scott, [10/06/21](#)]

The Letter Claimed That The Proposed SBA Direct Lending Program “Can Fall Into A Great Deal Of Fraud And Abuse.” “Giving the SBA the reins to run its own lending program will make it more difficult for existing lenders to continue to participate and potential lenders to even want to join the program. A 10-year authorization of \$4.5 billion for this program with little to no oversight will also increase the level of concern over how the money is being used. Without proper parameters, the direct lending program can fall into a great deal of fraud and abuse.” [Sen. Tim Scott, [10/06/21](#)]

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) Cosponsored “The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022,” A Bill To Advance “Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud” In Pandemic UI.

2022: Sen. Bill Cassidy Is A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022—A Bill That Would “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”

Sen. Cassidy Was A Co-Sponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022 That Was Led By Sen. Crapo.

BILL

26. [S.4507](#) — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022

Sponsor: [Crapo, Mike](#) [[Sen.-R-ID](#)] (Introduced 07/12/2022) Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: Introduced

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/16/25](#)]

- **The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”** “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.” “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) Introduced The “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act,” Which Would Cover ERTC Fraud, Saying It Would Serve In “Tracking Down Those Who Defrauded Taxpayers And Make Sure Justice Is Served”—Lankford Has Also Cosponsored The “Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022” And Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Pandemic UI Programs.

In January 2025, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) Introduced The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Which Would Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs, Including The ERTC, Established Under The CARES Act—Lankford Said The Bill Will Serve In “Tracking Down Those Who Defrauded Taxpayers And Make Sure Justice Is Served.”

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) Introduced S. 121, The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Introduced January 16, 2025. [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The Recover COVID Funds Act Extends The Statute Of Limitations To Ten Years For Violations Of COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Programs, Including Those Established Under The CARES Act. “This bill extends the statute of limitations (i.e., time limit for bringing a legal action) to 10 years for criminal and civil violations involving specified COVID-19 pandemic relief programs, such as violations involving fraudulent activity.” [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

- **The Bill Covers Programs That Were Established Under The CARES Act And Other Pandemic Relief Laws:**

A BILL

To extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act”.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO PANDEMIC-ERA PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “pandemic-era law” means—

- (A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 ([Public Law 116–123](#); 134 Stat. 146);
- (B) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([Public Law 116–127](#); 134 Stat. 177);
- (C) the CARES Act ([Public Law 116–136](#); 134 Stat. 281);
- (D) the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([Public Law 116–139](#); 134 Stat. 620);
- (E) divisions M and N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 ([Public Law 116–260](#); 134 Stat. 1182);
- (F) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ([Public Law 117–2](#); 135 Stat. 4); or
- (G) an amendment made by a law described in subparagraphs (A) through (F); and

(2) the term “pandemic-era program violation” means an offense or other violation of law involving conduct that relates to or involves—

- (A) a program, project, or activity that was authorized or established by, or was carried out under, a pandemic-era law; or
- (B) funding provided under a pandemic-era law.

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The ERTC Was Established Under The CARES Act, Enacted On March 27, 2020. “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted on March 27, 2020, provides for an employee retention tax credit (Employee Retention Credit) that is designed to encourage Eligible Employers to keep employees on their payroll despite experiencing an economic hardship related to COVID-19.” [Internal Revenue Service, accessed [04/14/25](#)]


Sen. Lankford Said Of The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, “We Will Be Able To Continue Tracking Down Those Who Defrauded Taxpayers And Make Sure Justice Is Served.” “Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., has released the eighth edition of ‘Federal Fumbles,’ his annual report examining what he and his staff consider wasteful government spending. While Lankford acknowledges that both Republicans and Democrats contribute to government waste, his report primarily highlights instances he attributes to Democrats—particularly the Biden administration. [...] Blown Coverage [...] The statute of limitations to prosecute pandemic fraud runs out at the end of 2025. I’ve introduced the Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, which would extend the statute of limitations for prosecuting Unemployment Insurance fraud and all other pandemic-related fraud from five years to ten years. By passing this bill, we will be able to continue tracking down those who defrauded taxpayers and make sure justice is served.” [Big Country 99.5, accessed [04/14/25](#)]


February 2025: Sen. Lankford Posted About Fraud In Pandemic Unemployment Insurance, Saying The “Fix” Was To “Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Prosecuting All Pandemic-Related Fraud Through My Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act”:



Sen. James Lankford  
@SenatorLankford



 **FUMBLE**—The Department of Labor oversees the Unemployment Insurance Program, where an estimated \$400 BILLION in pandemic payments may have been improperly disbursed.

 **FIX**— Extend the statute of limitations for prosecuting all pandemic-related fraud through my Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act.

10:35 AM · Feb 19, 2025 · 6,452 Views

[X Post by @SenatorLankford, 02/19/25, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

2022: Sen. Lankford Is A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022—A Bill That Would “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”

Sen. Lankford Is A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022.

BILL

31. [S.4507](#) — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022

Sponsor: [Crapo, Mike](#) [[Sen.-R-ID](#)] (Introduced 07/12/2022) Cosponsors: (16)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/16/25](#)]

- **The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”** “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

Lankford Said Fraudulent Claims Are Just Theft From The American Taxpayer And That There Must Be A Crack Down On Fraudsters. “Fraudulent unemployment claims are just theft from the American taxpayer. The massive unemployment spending during the height of the COVID pandemic also led to massive fraud. We must crack down on fraudsters and ensure the federal government and states can recoup the fraudulently used funds to provide needed updates to our unemployment systems after our state government worked to return to our traditional unemployment process so Oklahomans could get back to work safely as soon as possible,” said Lankford.” [Lankford.senate.gov, [07/15/22](#)]

2024: In Response To Unemployment Insurance Fraud During The COVID Pandemic, Sen. Lankford Was An Original Cosponsor Of Legislation To “Combat Fraud” By Increasing UI System Integrity—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

July 2024: Sen. Lankford Co-Sponsored The Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Unemployment Insurance Programs In Response To Fraudulent Claims During The COVID Pandemic—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.” “Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Ranking Member Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and 10 Senate cosponsors introduced bipartisan legislation today that would make key improvements to the nation’s unemployment insurance system. The legislation, titled the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, would focus on program administration and integrity to combat fraud and improve access to benefits for eligible workers. ‘The Covid-19 pandemic showed that unemployment insurance systems were too often unable to keep up with the needs of American workers and too vulnerable to fraud,’ Wyden and Crapo said. ‘This bipartisan bill will go a long way to making the UI system more accessible to workers who need it and protecting taxpayer dollars by recouping and preventing fraud.’” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]

- **Sen. Lankford Was An Original Cosponsor Of The Bill.** “The original cosponsors of the legislation are: Michael Bennet, D-Colo., James Lankford, R-Okla., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Gary Peters, D-Mich., Todd Young, R-Ind., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]
- **The Bill Did Not Advance Past The Senate Finance Committee:**


S.4663 - Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Wyden, Ron \[D-OR\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2024)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:  **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) Took Credit For Securing Over \$1 Million To “Combat” Pandemic UI Fraud And Signed A Letter Asking The Biden Administration For Progress On Preventing Fraudulent Pandemic Unemployment Claims And Recouping Stolen Funding.

September 2020: Sen. Steven Daines (R-MT) Claimed Credit For Securing Over \$1.2 Million To “Combat Unemployment Fraud And Recover Improper Payments,” Including Those Made Under Pandemic Relief Law The CARES Act.

September 2020: Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) Claimed Credit For Securing Over \$1.2 Million To “Combat Unemployment Fraud And Recover Improper Payments In The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program, Including Those Programs Created Under The CARES Act.” “U.S. Senator Steve Daines today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor will be directing \$1,215,000 to the State of Montana to support efforts to combat unemployment fraud and recover improper payments in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, including those programs created under the CARES Act. ‘This funding is about stopping and preventing unemployment fraud in Montana, and ensuring this money is available to those who are truly in need,’ Daines said. ‘I will continue working with the Administration to ensure that our unemployment insurance programs are protected from any waste, abuse or fraud.’” [Sen. Steve Daines, [09/01/20](#)]

- **Sen. Daines Press Release Headline: DAINES SECURES OVER \$1 MILLION TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FRAUD IN MONTANA** [Sen. Steve Daines, [09/01/20](#)]

February 2023: Sen. Daines Signed A Letter To Biden’s Attorney General And Labor Secretary Asking For Progress On Preventing Fraudulent Pandemic Unemployment Claims And Recouping Stolen Funding.

February 2023: Sen. Daines Signed A Letter To Then-Attorney General Merrick Garland And Then-Labor Secretary Mary Walsh “Asking For Progress On The Government’s Efforts To Prevent Fraudulent Covid-19 Funding Claims, And To Recoup Any Of The Billions Of Dollars Of Relief Funding Estimated To Have Been Stolen By Fraudsters.” “A group of Republican senators sent a letter this week to Attorney General Merrick Garland and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh asking for progress on the government’s efforts to prevent fraudulent COVID-19 funding claims, and to recoup any of the billions of dollars of relief funding estimated to have been stolen by fraudsters. Sens. John Thune, R-S.D., Todd Young, R-Pa., Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Steve Daines, R-Mont., and James Lankford, R-Okla., asked for information on the efforts of the National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force (NUIFTF) to stop coronavirus-related fraud in unemployment insurance (UI) programs that are run by states with assistance from the Labor Department.” [MeritTalk, [02/24/23](#)]



Steve Daines
United States Senator

[Sen. James Lankford, [02/21/23](#)]

The Letter Said “It Is Important That We Identify To What Degree Efforts To Recoup Fraudulent COVID-19 UI Benefits Have Been Successful.” “Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. As Congress works to continue its oversight of the billions of taxpayer dollars that was spent throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we identify to what degree efforts to recoup fraudulent COVID-19 UI benefits have been successful.” [Sen. James Lankford, [02/21/23](#)]

Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) Cosponsored The “Complete COVID Collections Act,” A Bill To Preserve The Pandemic Special Inspector General And Expand Its Jurisdiction Over SBA Pandemic Programs, And Cosponsored A Bill To “Combat Fraud” In Pandemic UI Fraud.

Sen. Todd Young Is A Cosponsor Of The Complete COVID Collections Act—A Bill That Aimed To Preserve The Watchdog Tasked With Tracking Down Criminals Who Stole COVID Relief Designed For Small Businesses.

According To A Press Release Published By Sen. Young, The Complete COVID Collections Act Would Extend The Authorization Of The Special Inspector General For Pandemic Recovery—A Role That Was Designed To Conduct Oversight Of Pandemic Fraud. “The Complete COVID Collections Act would extend the authorization of the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery – a role that was designed to conduct oversight of pandemic funds – and expand its jurisdiction to cover additional SBA COVID-related programs. It is estimated that more than \$200 billion still needs to be recovered.” [Young.senate.gov, [01/14/25](#)]

Sen. Young Is A Cosponsor Of The Complete COVID Collections Act.

BILL

55. [S.68](#) — 119th Congress (2025-2026)
Complete COVID Collections Act
Sponsor: [Ernst, Joni \[Sen.-R-IA\]](#) (Introduced 01/09/2025) Cosponsors: (6)
Committees: Senate - Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Latest Action: Senate - 02/10/2025 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 8. ([All Actions](#))
Tracker:

Introduced

 Passed Senate > Passed House > To President > Became Law

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/17/25](#)]

In Support Of This Piece Of Legislation, Sen. Young Said “Programs Designed To Provide Relief To Small Businesses Were Repeatedly Taken Advantage Of” And That This Bill Would Protect Americans From Fraud And Abuse.” ““Programs designed to provide relief to our small businesses were repeatedly taken advantage of, leaving small businesses hurting and taxpayers on the hook,’ said Young. ‘I’m glad to see this effort to recover taxpayer dollars and protect Americans from fraud and abuse pass out of committee. I look forward to voting for this bill on the Senate floor.” [U.S. Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, [02/11/25](#)]

2024: In Response To Unemployment Insurance Fraud During The COVID Pandemic, Sen. Young Was An Original Cosponsor Of Legislation To “Combat Fraud” By Increasing UI System Integrity—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

July 2024: Sen. Young Co-Sponsored The Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Unemployment Insurance Programs In Response To Fraudulent Claims During The COVID Pandemic—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.” “Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Ranking Member Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and 10 Senate cosponsors introduced bipartisan legislation today that would make key improvements to the nation’s unemployment insurance system. The legislation, titled the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, would focus on program administration and integrity to combat fraud and improve access to benefits for eligible workers. ‘The Covid-19 pandemic showed that unemployment insurance systems were too often unable to keep up with the needs of American workers and too vulnerable to fraud,’ Wyden and Crapo said. ‘This bipartisan bill will go a long way to making the UI system more accessible to workers who need it and protecting taxpayer dollars by recouping and preventing fraud.’” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]

- **Sen. Young Was An Original Cosponsor Of The Bill.** “The original cosponsors of the legislation are: Michael Bennet, D-Colo., James Lankford, R-Okla., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Gary Peters, D-Mich., Todd Young, R-Ind., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]
- **The Bill Did Not Advance Past The Senate Finance Committee:**

S.4663 - Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Wyden, Ron \[D-OR\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2024)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) Signed A Letter That Cited “Immense Fraud” As It Asked President Biden For An Accounting Of Federal Pandemic Relief, And Cosponsored Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Pandemic UI Programs.

March 2022: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) Signed A Letter To President Biden Requesting An Accounting Of Federal Pandemic Relief, With The Letter Claiming “The Federal Government’s Shocking Failure To Provide The American Public With A Faithful Accounting.”

March 2022: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) Signed A Letter To President Biden “Requesting An Accounting Of How The Federal Government Has Allocated Trillions In Taxpayer Funds To Combat COVID-19.” “U.S. Sens. John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, both R-Wyo., joined U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT), and 33 Republican colleagues, in a letter to President Biden requesting an accounting of how the federal government has allocated trillions in taxpayer funds to combat COVID-19.” [Sen. John Barrasso, [03/04/22](#)]

- **Sen. Barrasso Press Release Headline: Barrasso, Lummis Join Effort to Hold White House Accountable for Trillions in COVID-19 Spending** [Sen. John Barrasso, [03/04/22](#)]

The Letter Noted Reporting On “Immense Fraud” In Pandemic Aid While Stating “The Federal Government’s Shocking Failure To Provide The American Public With A Faithful Accounting Of How It Has Spent Its Money.” “However, since passage of the American Rescue Plan in February, questions are mounting about where exactly the additional money has gone. A recent investigative report from the Washington Post headlined, ‘Immense fraud’ creates immense task for Washington as it tries to tighten scrutiny of \$6 trillion in emergency coronavirus spending’ details the federal government’s shocking failure to provide the American public with a faithful accounting of how it has spent its money.” [Sen. John Barrasso, [03/04/22](#)]

2024: In Response To Unemployment Insurance Fraud During The COVID Pandemic, Sen. Barrasso Was An Original Cosponsor Of Legislation To “Combat Fraud” By Increasing UI System Integrity—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

July 2024: Sen. Barrasso Co-Sponsored The Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, Legislation To “Combat Fraud” In Unemployment Insurance Programs In Response To Fraudulent Claims During The COVID Pandemic—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.” “Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Ranking Member Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and 10 Senate cosponsors introduced bipartisan legislation today that would make key improvements to the nation’s unemployment insurance system. The legislation, titled the Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act, would focus on program administration and integrity to combat fraud and improve access to benefits for eligible workers. ‘The Covid-19 pandemic showed that unemployment insurance systems were too often unable to keep up with the needs of American workers and too vulnerable to fraud,’ Wyden and Crapo said. ‘This bipartisan bill will go a long way to making the UI system more accessible to workers who need it and protecting taxpayer dollars by recouping and preventing fraud.’” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]

- **Sen. Barrasso Was An Original Cosponsor Of The Bill.** “The original cosponsors of the legislation are: Michael Bennet, D-Colo., James Lankford, R-Okla., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Gary Peters, D-Mich., Todd Young, R-Ind., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]
- **The Bill Did Not Advance Past The Senate Finance Committee:**


S.4663 - Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Wyden, Ron \[D-OR\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2024)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:  **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) Cosponsored The Current “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act,” Which Would Cover The ERTC, In Extending The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) Is A Cosponsor Of The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Which Would Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs, Including The ERTC, Established Under The CARES Act.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) Is A Cosponsor Of S. 121, The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Introduced January 16, 2025. [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The Recover COVID Funds Act Extends The Statute Of Limitations To Ten Years For Violations Of COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Programs, Including Those Established Under The CARES Act. “This bill extends the statute of limitations (i.e., time limit for bringing a legal action) to 10 years for criminal and civil violations involving specified COVID-19 pandemic relief programs, such as violations involving fraudulent activity.” [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

- **The Bill Covers Programs That Were Established Under The CARES Act And Other Pandemic Relief Laws:**

A BILL

To extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act”.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS RELATING TO PANDEMIC-ERA PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “pandemic-era law” means—

- (A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 ([Public Law 116–123](#); 134 Stat. 146);
- (B) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([Public Law 116–127](#); 134 Stat. 177);
- (C) the CARES Act ([Public Law 116–136](#); 134 Stat. 281);
- (D) the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([Public Law 116–139](#); 134 Stat. 620);
- (E) divisions M and N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 ([Public Law 116–260](#); 134 Stat. 1182);
- (F) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ([Public Law 117–2](#); 135 Stat. 4); or
- (G) an amendment made by a law described in subparagraphs (A) through (F); and

(2) the term “pandemic-era program violation” means an offense or other violation of law involving conduct that relates to or involves—

- (A) a program, project, or activity that was authorized or established by, or was carried out under, a pandemic-era law; or
- (B) funding provided under a pandemic-era law.

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The ERTC Was Established Under The CARES Act, Enacted On March 27, 2020. “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted on March 27, 2020, provides for an employee retention tax credit (Employee Retention Credit) that is designed to encourage Eligible Employers to keep employees on their payroll despite experiencing an economic hardship related to COVID-19.” [Internal Revenue Service, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) Is A Cosponsor Of The Current “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act,” Which Would Cover The ERTC, And Cosponsored The ERTC Repeal Act, Saying It Was “Past Time To Eliminate This Fraud-Ridden Pandemic-Era Policy.”

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) Is A Cosponsor Of The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Which Would Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs, Including The ERTC, Established Under The CARES Act.

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Relief Laws:

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

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2024: Sen. Tillis Cosponsored The ERTC Repeal Act Of 2024—A Bill That Tillis Said Was A Critical Step To Address America’s Debt Crisis And Help Eliminate “Fraud-Ridden” Pandemic-Era Policy.

Sen. Tillis Is A Cosponsor Of The ERTC Repeal Act Of 2024.

BILL

18. [S.5079](#) — 118th Congress (2023-2024)

ERTC Repeal Act of 2024

Sponsor: [Romney, Mitt](#) [[Sen.-R-UT](#)] (Introduced 09/18/2024) Cosponsors: ([2](#))

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 09/18/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [4/21/25](#)]

The ERTC Repeal Act Of 2024 Would Disallow The Processing Of Any ERTC Claims Filed After Jan. 31, 2024 And Increase Penalties For Fraud. “A refundable credit known as the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) that’s available to qualifying businesses that paid wages to employees during the COVID-19 pandemic would end under a bipartisan bill offered on Sept. 18 by U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC). The ERTC Repeal Act of 2024, S. 5079, would disallow the processing of any ERTC claims filed after Jan. 31, 2024, and increase penalties for fraud, according to a bill summary provided by Sen. Tillis’ staff.” [Ripon Advance, [09/25/24](#)]

Tillis Said “Repealing The ERTC Is A Critical Step Towards Addressing America’s Debt Crisis And That It Was “Past Time To Eliminate This Fraud-Ridden Pandemic-Era Policy.” “Repealing the ERTC is a critical step towards addressing America’s debt crisis,” said Sen. Tillis, an original cosponsor of S. 5079. ‘It’s past time to eliminate this fraud-ridden pandemic-era policy so we can concentrate on getting our fiscal house in order.’” [Ripon Advance, [09/25/24](#)]

2024: In Response To Unemployment Insurance Fraud During The COVID Pandemic, Sen. Tillis Was An Original Cosponsor Of Legislation To “Combat Fraud” By Increasing UI System Integrity—The Bill’s Lead Sponsors Said It Would “Go A Long Way” In “Protecting Taxpayer Dollars By Recouping And Preventing Fraud.”

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administration and integrity to combat fraud and improve access to benefits for eligible workers. ‘The Covid-19 pandemic showed that unemployment insurance systems were too often unable to keep up with the needs of American workers and too vulnerable to fraud,’ Wyden and Crapo said. ‘This bipartisan bill will go a long way to making the UI system more accessible to workers who need it and protecting taxpayer dollars by recouping and preventing fraud.’” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]

- **Sen. Tillis Was An Original Cosponsor Of The Bill.** “The original cosponsors of the legislation are: Michael Bennet, D-Colo., James Lankford, R-Okla., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Gary Peters, D-Mich., Todd Young, R-Ind., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, [07/10/24](#)]
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S.4663 - Unemployment Insurance Integrity and Accessibility Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Sen. Wyden, Ron \[D-OR\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2024)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/10/2024 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: **Introduced**

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/10/25](#)]

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) Cosponsored The Current “Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act,” Which Would Cover The ERTC; Cosponsored The “Complete COVID Collections Act,” Which She Said Would “Recoup Funding That Was Wrongfully Awarded To Criminals”; And Cosponsored The “Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022.”

Sen. Marsha Blackburn Is A Cosponsor Of The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Which Would Extend The Statute Of Limitations For Violations Of Pandemic Relief Programs, Including The ERTC, Established Under The CARES Act.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) Is A Cosponsor Of S. 121, The Recover Fraudulent COVID Funds Act, Introduced January 16, 2025. [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

The Recover COVID Funds Act Extends The Statute Of Limitations To Ten Years For Violations Of COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Programs, Including Those Established Under The CARES Act. “This bill extends the statute of limitations (i.e., time limit for bringing a legal action) to 10 years for criminal and civil violations involving specified COVID-19 pandemic relief programs, such as violations involving fraudulent activity.” [Congress.gov, accessed [04/14/25](#)]

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2025: Sen. Blackburn Is A Cosponsor Of The Complete COVID Collections Act—A Bill That She Said Was Designed To “Recoup Funding That Was Wrongfully Awarded To Criminals, Gang Members, And Drug Traffickers Who Stole Money From The COVID Relief Program”

Sen. Blackburn Is A Cosponsor Of The COVID Collections Act.

BILL

136. [S.68](#) — 119th Congress (2025-2026)

Complete COVID Collections Act

Sponsor: [Ernst, Joni \[Sen.-R-IA\]](#) (Introduced 01/09/2025) **Cosponsors:** (6)

Committees: Senate - Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Latest Action: Senate - 02/10/2025 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 8. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: Introduced Passed Senate Passed House To President Became Law

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/17/25](#)]

Sen. Blackburn Said That During The Pandemic, Small Business Owners In Need Of Financial Assistance Were Turned Away Because Of Criminals, Gang Members, And Drug Traffickers Stole Money From The Relief Program And That This Legislation Would Recoup Funding That Was Wrongly Awarded To Criminals. “During the pandemic, small business owners in need of financial assistance were turned away because criminals, gang members, and drug traffickers stole money from the relief program,” said Senator Blackburn. “This legislation would help ensure we recoup every penny of funding that was wrongly awarded to criminals who gamed the system.” [Blackburn.senate.gov, [02/11/25](#)]

2022: Marsha Blackburn Is A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022—A Bill That Would “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”

Sen. Blackburn Is A Co-Sponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022.

BILL

45. [S.4507](#) — 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022

Sponsor: [Crapo, Mike \[Sen.-R-ID\]](#) (Introduced 07/12/2022) **Cosponsors:** (16)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: Introduced

[Congress.gov, accessed [04/17/25](#)]

- **The Press Release For The Bill Claimed It Would Have “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”** “With only approximately \$4 billion in unemployment fraud recovered so far of the roughly \$163 billion estimated, the legislation would jumpstart efforts to claw back American taxpayer funds and pursue recovery of fraudulent payments by ensuring aggressive identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud in pandemic unemployment programs.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, [07/14/22](#)]

Sen. Blackburn Voiced Support Of The Legislation And Said Fraudulent Unemployment Claims Have Cost Tax Payers Billions Of Dollars. “‘Fraudulent unemployment claims have cost taxpayers billions of dollars,’ said Senator Blackburn. ‘The big government spending spree made it too easy for fraudsters to steal money from hardworking taxpayers by claiming unemployment benefits. This legislation would give states the tools to undo the damage they caused and prevent others from abusing the system in the future.’” [Legistorm, [07/15/22](#)]

Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) Cosponsored The “Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022,” A Bill That Would Have Advanced “Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud” In Pandemic Aid Programs.

2022: Sen. Roger Marshall Is A Cosponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022—A Bill That Would “Jumpstart Efforts To Claw Back American Taxpayer Funds And Pursue Recovery Of Fraudulent Payments By Ensuring Aggressive Identification, Investigation, And Prosecution Of Criminal Fraud.”

Sen. Marshall Is A Co-Sponsor Of The Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act Of 2022 That Was Led By Sen. Crapo.

BILL
49. [S.4507](#) — 117th Congress (2021-2022)
Chase COVID Unemployment Fraud Act of 2022
Sponsor: [Crapo, Mike](#) [[Sen.-R-ID](#)] (Introduced 07/12/2022) **Cosponsors:** ([16](#))
Committees: Senate - Finance
Latest Action: Senate - 07/12/2022 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. ([All Actions](#))
Tracker: **Introduced**

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