

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN, *Chairman*

JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA
GLENN GROTHMAN, WISCONSIN
ELISE M. STEFANIK, NEW YORK
RICK W. ALLEN, GEORGIA
JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
BURGESS OWENS, UTAH
LISA C. MCCLAIN, MICHIGAN
MARY E. MILLER, ILLINOIS
JULIA LETLOW, LOUISIANA
KEVIN KILEY, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL RULLI, OHIO
JAMES C. MOYLAN, GUAM
ROBERT F. ONDER, JR., MISSOURI
RYAN MACKENZIE, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, WASHINGTON
MARK HARRIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK B. MESSMER, INDIANA
RANDY FINE, FLORIDA



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA,
Ranking Member

JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
FREDERICA S. WILSON, FLORIDA
SUZANNE BONAMICI, OREGON
MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
ALMA S. ADAMS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK DESAULNIER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD NORCROSS, NEW JERSEY
LUCY MCBATH, GEORGIA
JAHANA HAYES, CONNECTICUT
ILHAN OMAR, MINNESOTA
HALEY M. STEVENS, MICHIGAN
GREG CASAR, TEXAS
SUMMER L. LEE, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN W. MANNION, NEW YORK
VACANCY

April 24, 2025

Mr. Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

Based on recent findings of the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General, I request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) provide a legal decision on AmeriCorps' obligation of *American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act* funds.

AmeriCorps received \$1 billion of ARP funding to supplement its annual appropriation, most of which was to remain available until September 30, 2024.¹ The *Fiscal Responsibility Act*, enacted June 3, 2023, rescinded all AmeriCorps ARP funding that was unobligated as of that date.² The AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General recently issued a management alert outlining its concern that the agency's interpretation and recording of grant obligations may have resulted in the improper obligation of up to \$144 million in ARP funding after the June 3 rescission date.³ AmeriCorps has offered explanations for its obligation and recording dates and asserts that its practices are in compliance with all relevant laws and policies.⁴ The agency has therefore chosen not to seek a GAO legal decision on these issues.⁵

The Inspector General notes that obligations made after funds were rescinded may constitute an *Antideficiency Act* violation and emphasizes that ambiguity about the proper obligation and recording dates gives rise to potentially "inaccurate ... annual financial statements provided to Congress and the public."⁶

¹ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-2, title II, § 2206, 135 Stat. 4, 36 (Mar. 11, 2021).

² Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Pub. L. 118-5, div. B, title I, § 16, 137 Stat. 10, 26 (June 3, 2023).

³ *Management Alert*, at 7-8.

⁴ *Id.* at 10-13.

⁵ *Id.* at 11-12.

⁶ *Id.* at 5.

In light of the Inspector General’s analysis, I am concerned that AmeriCorps may have improperly recorded its grant obligations, obligated rescinded ARP funds, and violated the *Antideficiency Act* or other fiscal laws. Unfortunately, a lack of financial accountability is a longstanding problem for AmeriCorps, as evidenced by its eight consecutive failed audits. This concerns me. The House Committee on Education and Workforce remains committed to ensuring AmeriCorps properly stewards taxpayer resources. I am therefore requesting a legal decision regarding “the point in time at which obligation occurs within AmeriCorps’ grant process and whether AmeriCorps obligated rescinded ARP funds by issuing Notices of Grant Award after June 3, 2023.”⁷ My point of contact on this matter is Solomon Chen at Solomon.chen@mail.house.gov and Kent Talbert at Kent.talbert@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walberg", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Walberg
Chairman

⁷ *Id.* at 8.