

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2013

Inspector General Kathleen Tighe
Department of Education
Office of the Inspector General
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-1500

Dear Inspector General Tighe,

I write to express my deep concern over the immediate and future impacts sequestration will have on the ability of Inspectors General within our federal agencies to conduct effective oversight of government spending.

I appreciate the work you do every day to provide critical oversight into the effectiveness, efficiency and integrity of government operations. As you know, most IGs are not exempt from the cuts required by sequestration, which went into effect on March 1, 2013. According to the Office of Management and Budget, IGs face more than \$100 million in total cuts to their budgets. Many IGs have publically indicated that sequestration will result in furloughs and cuts to staff, which could significantly impact their ability to conduct effective oversight of their respective agencies.

In February, during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the effects of Sequestration, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development testified that sequestration will hurt the IG's ability to conduct effective oversight of his department and "will lead to even greater losses to the taxpayer than we are gaining by making these cuts." At a time with serious budget constraints, I believe we should be empowering our IGs to increase the accountability of government spending. The need for effective IGs is greater than ever.

As Congress and the President attempt to find a compromise that replaces these indiscriminant and reckless cuts with a comprehensive plan to stabilize our debt and deficits, I am very interested in hearing from you directly on the sequester. I respectfully request a detailed response with any available statistics on how your office has been impacted by sequestration, the projected long-term impact on your oversight abilities and, if possible, an estimate of how much money will *not* be recovered as a result of the sequester.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator