

117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 4046

To amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 7, 2022

Mr. Braun introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Simplify, Don't Am-
- 5 plify the IRS Act".

1 TITLE I—CORONAVIRUS STATE 2 FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

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3	SEC. 101. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION OF USE OF
4	CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY
5	FUNDS.
6	(a) In General.—Paragraph (2) of section 602(c)
7	of the Social Security Act, as added by section 9901 of
8	the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, is amended to
9	read as follows:
10	"(2) Further restriction on use of
11	FUNDS.—No State or territory may use funds made
12	available under this section for deposit into any pen-
13	sion fund.".
14	(b) Conforming Amendments.—Section 602 of
15	such Act is further amended—
16	(1) in subsection $(d)(2)(A)$, by striking ", in-
17	cluding, in the case of a State or a territory, all
18	modifications to the State's or territory's tax rev-
19	enue sources during the covered period";
20	(2) in subsection (e), by striking "such sub-
21	section," and all that follows through the period and
22	inserting "such subsection."; and
23	(3) in subsection (g)—
24	(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

1	(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
2	through (7) as paragraphs (1) through (6), re-
3	spectively.
4	(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
5	this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-
6	ment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
7	TITLE II—PROVISIONS RELAT-
8	ING TO TAX ADMINISTRATION
9	AND TAXPAYER PROTECTION
10	SEC. 201. PREVENTING WEAPONIZATION OF THE INTERNAL
11	REVENUE SERVICE.
12	(a) Organizations Exempt From Reporting.—
13	(1) Gross receipts threshold.—Clause (ii)
14	of section 6033(a)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue
15	Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$5,000" and
16	inserting "\$50,000".
17	(2) Organizations described.—Subpara-
18	graph (C) of section 6033(a)(3) of the Internal Rev-
19	enue Code of 1986 is amended—
20	(A) by striking "and" at the end of clause
21	(v),
22	(B) by striking the period at the end of
23	clause (vi) and inserting a semicolon, and
24	(C) by adding at the end the following new
25	clauses:

1	"(vii) any other organization described
2	in section 501(c) (other than a private
3	foundation or a supporting organization
4	described in section 509(a)(3)); and
5	"(viii) any organization (other than a
6	private foundation or a supporting organi-
7	zation described in section $509(a)(3)$
8	which is not described in section
9	170(c)(2)(A), or which is created or orga-
10	nized in a possession of the United States,
11	which has no significant activity (including
12	lobbying and political activity and the op-
13	eration of a trade or business) other than
14	investment activity in the United States.".
15	(3) Effective date.—The amendments made
16	by this subsection shall apply to taxable years end-
17	ing after the date of the enactment of this Act.
18	(b) Clarification of Application to Section
19	527 Organizations.—
20	(1) In General.—Paragraph (1) of section
21	6033(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
22	amended—
23	(A) by striking "This section" and insert-
24	ing "Except as otherwise provided by this sub-
25	section, this section", and

1	(B) by striking "for the taxable year." and
2	inserting "for the taxable year in the same
3	manner as to an organization exempt from tax-
4	ation under section 501(a).".
5	(2) Effective date.—The amendments made
6	by this subsection shall apply to taxable years end-
7	ing after the date of the enactment of this Act.
8	(c) Reporting of Names and Addresses of Con-
9	TRIBUTORS.—
10	(1) In General.—Paragraph (1) of section
11	6033(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
12	amended by adding at the end the following: "Ex-
13	cept as provided in subsections (b)(5) and (g)(2)(B),
14	such annual return shall not be required to include
15	the names and addresses of contributors to the orga-
16	nization.".
17	(2) Application to Section 527 organiza-
18	TIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 6033(g) of the In-
19	ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—
20	(A) by striking "and" at the end of sub-
21	paragraph (A),
22	(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
23	subparagraph (C), and
24	(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
25	the following new subparagraph:

1	"(B) containing the names and addresses
2	of all substantial contributors, and".
3	(3) Effective date.—The amendments made
4	by this subsection shall apply to taxable years end-
5	ing after the date of the enactment of this Act.
6	SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON TAXPAYER FUNDED UNION OFFI-
7	CIAL TIME FOR INTERNAL REVENUE SERV-
8	ICE EMPLOYEES.
9	(a) In General.—Section 7131 of title 5, United
10	States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11	lowing:
12	"(e) The authority provided under subsection (d)
13	shall not apply with respect to the Internal Revenue Serv-
14	ice, or an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, dur-
15	ing the period each year beginning on February 12 and
16	ending on April 15.".
17	(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 7131(d) of
18	title 5, United States Code, is amended, in the matter pre-
19	ceding paragraph (1), by striking "preceding" and insert-
20	ing "other".
21	(c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
22	sections (a) and (b) shall apply to any collective bar-
23	gaining agreement entered into after the date of enact-

24 ment of this section.

SEC 203 PROTECTING TAXPAYER PRIVACY

1	SEC. 203. PROTECTING TAXPAYER PRIVACY.
2	(a) Increase of Penalty for Unauthorized
3	DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION.—
4	(1) In General.—Paragraph (1) of section
5	7213(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
6	amended by striking "\$5,000" and inserting
7	"\$250,000".
8	(2) Disclosures by tax return pre-
9	PARERS.—Subsection (a) of section 7216 of the In-
10	ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
11	"\$1,000 (\$100,000 in the case of a disclosure or use
12	to which section 6713(b) applies)" and inserting
13	"\$250,000".
14	(3) Effective date.—The amendments made
15	by this subsection shall apply to disclosures made on
16	or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
17	(b) Removal.—
18	(1) In General.—Section 7701(c)(1)(A) of
19	title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting
20	"or in the case of an action involving a removal from
21	the service for an alleged violation of section
22	7213(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,"
23	after "described in section 4303,".
24	(2) Rule of construction.—The amend-
25	ments made by paragraph (1) may not be construed

to permit an officer or employee of the United

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- 1 States to submit an appeal to the Merit Systems
- 2 Protection Board if that individual is dismissed from
- 3 office or discharged from employment upon convic-
- 4 tion for a violation of section 7213(a)(1) of the In-
- 5 ternal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 TITLE III—RESTRAINTS ON IRS 7 ENFORCEMENT

- 8 SEC. 301. TAX GAP PROJECTION.
- 9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
- 10 date of the enactment of this section, and no later than
- 11 July 31 annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Internal
- 12 Revenue shall submit to Congress a projection detailing
- 13 the tax gap estimate for the most recent taxable year as
- 14 is practicable using the most recently available data, and
- 15 including identification and detailed descriptions of the
- 16 data used for such projection and clear identification of
- 17 the amount of the projected tax gap associated with non-
- 18 filing, underreporting, and underpayment (including iden-
- 19 tifying the amount subject to collection actions).
- 20 (b) Use of Artificial Intelligence.—To the ex-
- 21 tent practicable, for purposes of reducing the burden on
- 22 taxpayers subject to National Research Program audits,
- 23 the Commissioner shall use artificial intelligence, including
- 24 neural machine learning, and other available data analysis

- 1 tools, including commercial analytic data providers, to cal-
- 2 culate a projection described in subsection (a).
- 3 (c) National Research Program Audits.—In
- 4 calculating a projection described in subsection (a), the
- 5 Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall not undertake
- 6 more National Research Program audits in any one fiscal
- 7 year than are undertaken in fiscal year 2021.
- 8 (d) Tax Gap.—For purposes of this section, the term
- 9 "tax gap" means the difference between tax liabilities
- 10 owed to the United States under the Internal Revenue
- 11 Code of 1986 and those liabilities actually collected by the
- 12 Internal Revenue Service.
- 13 SEC. 302. JCT REPORT.
- 14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
- 15 submission of the first tax gap projection to Congress
- 16 under section 201, and not later than 90 days after the
- 17 submission of each successive submission, the Chief of
- 18 Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation shall submit to
- 19 the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-
- 20 resentatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate
- 21 a report analyzing such projection, including—
- (1) identification of methodologies used,
- 23 (2) any statistical or methodological uncertain-
- 24 ties,

1	(3) the effect of outdated data, if any, on the
2	accuracy of such projection, and

- 3 (4) such additional information as the Joint
 4 Committee on Taxation determines is useful for
 5 Congress to use to assess and analyze the tax gap
 6 projections provided by the Commissioner of Inter7 nal Revenue.
- 8 (b) Release of Information.—For purposes of fa-9 cilitating the report described in subsection (a), the Sec-10 retary of the Treasury shall, in a timely manner, provide 11 to the Joint Committee on Taxation such information as 12 such committee requests.

13 SEC. 303. RESTRICTION ON INCREASED ENFORCEMENT 14 FUNDS.

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds appropriated to the Department of 16 the Treasury for audit and enforcement purposes in excess 17 18 of the levels appropriated for such purposes in fiscal year 19 2021 may be expended for such purposes, including for 20 salaries, expenses, and enforcement activities, until 180 21 days after the Internal Revenue Service publishes an up-22 dated tax gap projection pursuant to, and compliant with,

section 201.

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1	(b) Sunset.—The provisions of subsection (a) shall
2	not apply after the date which is one year after the date
3	of the enactment of this section.
4	SEC. 304. RESTRICTION ON INCREASED FUNDING FOR
5	OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES.
6	(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
7	sion of law, no funds appropriated to the Department of
8	the Treasury in excess of the levels appropriated for speci-
9	fied purposes in fiscal year 2021 may be expended for
10	specified purposes.
11	(b) Specified Purposes.—For purposes of sub-
12	section (a), the term "specified purposes" means—
13	(1) the implementation of new information re-
14	porting requirements on flows of deposits and with-
15	drawals in individual and small-business banking ac-
16	counts and other financial accounts,
17	(2) the targeting of United States citizens in re-
18	sponse to the exercise by such citizens of any legally
19	protected or recognized right guaranteed under the
20	First Amendment to the United States Constitution,
21	(3) the targeting of a group for regulatory scru-
22	tiny based on the ideological beliefs of such group,
23	(4) the auditing of individual taxpayers with an
24	adjusted gross income of less than \$400,000, and

1	(5) the hiring under an agreement pursuant to
2	the Intragovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (sec-
3	tions 3371 et seq. of title 5, United States Code) or
4	any other authority of an authorized researcher who
5	is not a full time Federal employee to access data
6	subject to privacy protections afforded by section
7	6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
8	SEC. 305. EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING IRS RESOURCES.
9	For purposes of increasing enforcement actions in
10	areas of high noncompliance and reducing the corporate
11	audit no-change rate of the Internal Revenue Service to
12	below 20 percent by 2023—
13	(1) the Secretary (or the Secretary's delegate)
14	shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the
15	enactment of this section—
16	(A) update the methodology that is used
17	for the selection of corporate returns for audit,
18	and
19	(B) reassign resources of the Internal Rev-
20	enue Service such that the majority of high-in-
21	come nonfilers are subject to enforcement ac-
22	tions, and
23	(2) the Comptroller General of the United
24	States shall, within one year after the date of the
25	enactment of this section, issue a comprehensive re-

1	port to Congress on information returns and data
2	collected by the Internal Revenue Service that could
3	be deployed for compliance activities but that are
4	not currently used for such activities.
5	SEC. 306. IRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.
6	(a) Establishment.—Not later than September 30,
7	2022, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (hereinafter
8	known as the "Commissioner") after consultation with the
9	Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service (hereinafter
10	known as the "Chief Counsel"), shall establish within the
11	Internal Revenue Service a fellowship program (herein-
12	after known as the "program") to recruit private sector
13	tax experts to join the Internal Revenue Service to create
14	and participate in the audit task force established under
15	subsection (e).
16	(b) Objective.—The Commissioner, after consulta-
17	tion with the Chief Counsel, shall design the program in
18	a manner such that the program—
19	(1) addresses such tax cases handled by the In-
20	ternal Revenue Service as the Commissioner deter-
21	mines—
22	(A) are the most complex, or
23	(B) include new and emerging issues, and
24	(2) recruits and retains outstanding and quali-
25	fied tax experts.

1	(c) Advertisement of Program.—The Commis-
2	sioner shall advertise the program in such a way as to
3	attract mid-career tax professionals, including certified
4	public accountants, tax attorneys, and such other tax pro-
5	fessionals as the Commissioner determines are appro-
6	priately qualified to handle the most complex tax cases.
7	(d) STRUCTURE.—
8	(1) In GENERAL.—The program shall be
9	staffed by not fewer than 30 fellows at the discretion
10	of the Commissioner based on needs of the Internal
11	Revenue Service and the availability of qualified can-
12	didates.
13	(2) TERM OF SERVICE.—
14	(A) IN GENERAL.—Each fellow shall be
15	hired for a 2-, 3-, or 4-year term of service.
16	(B) Extensions.—
17	(i) In general.—A fellow may apply
18	for, and the Commissioner may grant, a 1-
19	year extension of the fellowship.
20	(ii) No limit on number of exten-
21	SIONS.—There shall be no limit on the
22	number of extensions under clause (i).
23	(3) Fellowship vacancies.—The Commis-
24	sioner, after consultation with the Chief Counsel,
25	shall fill vacant fellowships—

1	(A) in such a manner as to ensure that the
2	program is staffed with no fewer than 15 fel-
3	lows, and
4	(B) as soon as practicable after the va-
5	cancy arises.
6	(4) Hiring Authority.—The Commissioner
7	shall have authority to permanently hire a fellow at
8	the end of the term of service for such fellow.
9	(e) Task Force.—Not later than the date on which
10	the first fellowship is awarded under this section, the Com-
11	missioner shall establish a task force within the Internal
12	Revenue Service and the office of the Chief Counsel in
13	both national and regional office placements that includes
14	the fellows hired pursuant to subsection (d), the purpose
15	of which is to—
16	(1) perform audit case selection,
17	(2) educate Internal Revenue Service employees
18	on emerging issues,
19	(3) audit selected taxpayers,
20	(4) address offshore tax evasion and issues im-
21	plicating the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act,
22	and
23	(5) identify, mentor, and train junior employees
24	from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to
25	audits.

(f) Composition.—The task force established under 1 2 subsection (e) may be composed of both— 3 (1) fellows, and 4 (2) permanent employees of the Internal Rev-5 enue Service. 6 (g) Pay of Fellows.— 7 (1) In General.—The Secretary of the Treas-8 ury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall determine, 9 subject to the provisions of this subsection, the pay 10 of fellows recruited under subsection (a). 11 (2) Pay scale.—For purposes of paragraph 12 (1), the pay of a fellow shall not be less than the 13 minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General 14 Schedule and shall not exceed the amount of annual 15 compensation (excluding expenses) specified in sec-16 tion 102 of title 3, United States Code. 17 (h) Administration of Program.—The Secretary may appoint a lead program officer to administer and ad-18 19 vertise the program. 20 (i) Annual Review and Report.—Not later than 21 1 year after the date on which the first fellowship is 22 awarded under this section, and annually thereafter, the 23 Commissioner shall submit to Congress a report containing— 24 25 (1) an analysis of the effects of the program,

1	(2) an analysis of the return on investment of
2	the program, including calculations of all costs in-
3	curred and all tax revenue and penalties collected
4	due to the work of the task force,
5	(3) a description of the total number of fellows
6	who apply each year, and
7	(4) recommendations for changes to the pro-
8	gram, if any.
9	(j) Rules and Regulations.—The Commissioner,
10	with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury (or the
11	Secretary's delegate, other than the Commissioner), shall
12	promulgate such rules and regulations as may be nec-
13	essary for the efficient administration of the program.
14	TITLE IV—PROVISIONS TO RE-
15	DUCE IMPROPER TAX PAY-
16	MENTS
17	SEC. 401. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.
18	(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that when the Inter-
19	nal Revenue Service makes payments to taxpayers, the In-
20	ternal Revenue Services must make every effort to confirm
21	that the right recipient is receiving the right payment for
22	the right reason at the right time.
23	(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this title is to—
24	(1) reduce improper tax payments by the Inter-
25	nal Revenue Service—

1	(A) by intensifying efforts to eliminate
2	payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse; and
3	(B) continuing to ensure that the Internal
4	Revenue Service provides accessible taxpayer
5	services;
6	(2) adopt a comprehensive set of policies, in-
7	cluding—
8	(A) transparency of significant improper
9	tax payments; and
10	(B) accountability for reducing improper
11	tax payments; and
12	(3) protecting taxpayer services.
13	SEC. 402. IMPROPER TAX PAYMENT DEFINED.
14	For purposes of this title, the term "improper tax
15	payment" means any credit or refund of an overpayment
16	of a tax imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
17	that should not have been made or that was made in an
18	incorrect amount.
19	SEC. 403. TRANSPARENCY.
20	(a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the
21	date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the
22	Treasury shall establish, in coordination with the Commis-
23	sioner of Internal Revenue, annual targets for reducing
24	improper tax payments made by the Internal Revenue
25	Service.

1 (b) Published Information.— 2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days 3 after the date of enactment of this section, and an-4 nually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall 5 publish on the internet information about improper 6 tax payments made by the Internal Revenue Service. 7 Contents.—The information published 8 under paragraph (1) shall include, subject to Fed-9 eral privacy policies and to the extent permitted by 10 law— 11 (A) the name of the accountable official 12 designated under section 404(a); (B) rates and amounts as of the date of 13 14 enactment of this section, and historical rates 15 and amounts, of improper tax payments made 16 by the Internal Revenue Service, including, if 17 known and appropriate, the causes of the im-18 proper tax payments; 19 (C) rates and amounts as of the date of 20 enactment of this section, and historical rates 21 and amounts, of the recovery of improper tax 22 payments (estimated on the basis of applicable 23 samples where appropriate); and 24 (D) the annual targets for reducing im-

proper tax payments.

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- 1 (c) METHODOLOGY.—The methodology used for iden-
- 2 tifying and measuring improper tax payments under this
- 3 section shall meet the requirement of section
- 4 3352(c)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code.
- 5 (d) Links.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue
- 6 shall prominently display on the homepage of the website
- 7 of the Internal Revenue Service a link to internet-based
- 8 resources for addressing improper tax payments, including
- 9 the information published under subsection (b)(1).

10 SEC. 404. ACCOUNTABILITY AND COORDINATION.

- 11 (a) ACCOUNTABLE OFFICIALS.—Not later than 120
- 12 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Com-
- 13 missioner of Internal Revenue shall designate an official
- 14 to be accountable for meeting the reduction targets under
- 15 section 403(a) without unduly burdening taxpayer serv-
- 16 ices.
- 17 (b) Report.—
- 18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
- after the date of enactment of this section, and an-
- 20 nually thereafter, the official who is designated
- 21 under subsection (a) shall provide the Director of
- the Office of Management and Budget and the ap-
- propriate congressional committees a report that in-
- 24 cludes—

1	(A) the methodology used for identifying
2	and measuring improper tax payments under
3	section $403(c)$;
4	(B) the plans for meeting the reduction
5	targets under section 403(a); and
6	(C) the plans and supporting analysis for
7	ensuring that initiatives undertaken in accord-
8	ance with this title do not unduly burden tax-
9	payer services.
10	(2) Appropriate congressional commit-
11	TEES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term
12	"appropriate congressional committees" means the
13	Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Com-
14	mittee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-
15	resentatives.
16	(c) Duties of Inspector General.—Not later
17	than 60 days after the date on which the annual report
18	required under subsection (b) is submitted, the Treasury
19	Inspector General for Tax Administration shall—
20	(1) assess the level of risk for improper tax
21	payments by the Internal Revenue Service;
22	(2) determine the extent of oversight warranted
23	(in addition to oversight requirements under section
24	3353 of title 31, United States Code); and

1	(3) provide the Commissioner of Internal Rev-
2	enue with recommendations, if any, for modifying
3	the methodology, improper tax payment reduction
4	plans, or taxpayer services.
5	(d) AGENCY FAILURE.—
6	(1) In general.—If the Internal Revenue
7	Service does not demonstrate an improvement in re-
8	ducing improper tax payments, fails to develop a
9	plan to meet reduction targets under subsection
10	(b)(1)(B), or fails to implement the plans described
11	in subsection $(b)(1)(C)$ for not less than 2 consecu-
12	tive years, the official designated under subsection
13	(a) shall submit to the Commissioner of Internal
14	Revenue, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax
15	Administration, and the Chief Financial Officer of
16	the Internal Revenue Service a report that—
17	(A) describe the likely causes of the lack or
18	improvement or failure; and
19	(B) proposes a remedial plan.
20	(2) Review.—Annually, the Commissioner of
21	Internal Revenue shall, with respect to a remedial
22	plan proposed under paragraph (1)(B)—
23	(A) review the remedial plan; and
24	(B) in consultation with the Treasury In-
25	spector General for Tax Administration and

Chief Financial Officer of the Internal Revenue
Service, forward the remedial plan and any additional comments and analysis to the Director
of the Office of Management and Budget.

5 SEC. 405. POLICY PROPOSALS.

- 6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the 7 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the
- 8 Treasury, in consultation with the Commissioner of Inter-
- 9 nal Revenue and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax
- 10 Administration, shall develop policy recommendations, in-
- 11 cluding potential legislative proposals, designed to reduce
- 12 improper tax payments, including improper tax payments
- 13 caused by error, waste, fraud, and abuse, made by the In-
- 14 ternal Revenue Service.
- 15 (b) Inclusion.—The recommendations developed
- 16 under subsection (a) shall be included, as appropriate, in
- 17 the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title
- 18 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2023 and each fis-
- 19 cal year thereafter.

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