



## **H.R. 2716, *Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act*** Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA)

### **Background:**

- The federal government faces a widespread challenge with improper payments. In FY 2024, **federal agencies reported over \$162 billion in improper payments**, the vast majority of which were overpayments (approximately 84%).<sup>1</sup>
- To curb improper payments, the *Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019* authorized the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service) to develop the Do Not Pay (DNP) service, which provides a central portal for agencies to verify an individual's eligibility for benefits and supports payment integrity across the federal government.
- However, **until 2023, the DNP service did not include updated and complete death data**, resulting in erroneous payments issued to deceased individuals.
  - The Social Security Administration (SSA) manages a federal database of death reports but only shares a slimmed down version with other agencies.
- In December 2023, the SSA received temporary, three-year, authority to share its full death data with Treasury's DNP service through the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*. The three-year data exchange authority will end in December 2026.
- The Fiscal Service announced that the first year of the access period resulted in a **net benefit of \$109 million, providing a 2,377% return on investment for the American taxpayer** in 2024.<sup>2</sup>
  - Additionally, the Fiscal Service projects that by December 2026, this **data exchange will save \$330 million in improper payments across the federal government**.

### **H.R. 2716, *Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act*:**

- Permanently authorizes the SSA to share its full Death Master File with Treasury's DNP service.
  - Includes key provisions to ensure the SSA is adequately reimbursed for the collection, maintenance, and sharing of death records.
  - Provides guardrails to guarantee the quality of the death data provided to DNP.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Improper Payments: Information on Agencies' Fiscal Year 2024 Estimates*, [GAO-25-107753](#). U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 11, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> *Update Full Death Master File within Do Not Pay*, [one-pager](#). U.S. Bureau of the Fiscal Service.