



For Immediate Release  
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## House Sends Improper Payments Legislation to President's Desk

*Major element of Blue Dog blueprint cleared to be signed into law*

Washington, DC – Today, bipartisan legislation to eliminate \$98 billion in waste, fraud and abuse cleared its last major hurdle on the way to the President's desk with House passage of S. 1508, the *Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act*. This legislation, championed by **Representative Patrick Murphy** of Pennsylvania, is a major element of the Blue Dog Blueprint for Fiscal Reform, a comprehensive plan to reduce the deficit, balance the budget and lay the groundwork for sound fiscal policies over the long term.

“If a family was double billed for their car payment or paid for groceries they never received, they'd figure out what went wrong and get their money back,” said Representative Murphy. “Washington should hold itself to the same standard of fiscal responsibility, and I'm proud to pass this bill to protect taxpayer dollars and reduce waste.”

“This is a great example of the type of bipartisan, commonsense legislation that will help restore much needed fiscal discipline to the federal government,” said Representative Jim Matheson, Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “Today, Representative Murphy's hard work has resulted in real savings for the American taxpayer.”

The *Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA)* would reduce the estimated \$98 billion in improper payments – those that occur when a federal agency pays too much or pays twice for a product or service. Specifically, the bill contains such provisions as increasing transparency by lowering the improper payment threshold for agencies, requiring agencies to develop action plans to avoid future waste, recovering overpayments, and holding agencies accountable.

*The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 54 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the [Blue Dog website](#).*

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