October 29, 2020

Chairman Ron Johnson

Ranking Member Gary Peters

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

340 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C.  20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Peters,

On behalf of the more than 1 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, I strongly urge you to strike the language of H.R. 3941, the FedRAMP Authorization Act, from H.R. 6395, the fiscal year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Codifying the FedRAMP program as it currently exists and operates at the General Services Administration (GSA) would harm innovation in the cloud services environment and prevent federal agencies across the government from receiving the latest cloud technology with improved cybersecurity enhancements.

Due to the high cost of certification under the current FedRAMP program, which can require some companies to undergo a three to four year application process and cost millions of dollars to obtain an authorization to operate, codification of this program would be anticompetitive and create a barrier to entry for small and minority-owned cloud service providers, as well as limit the number of cloud service offerings available to federal agencies.

Improvements can and should be made to the current FedRAMP program through administrative action at the GSA, which will allow the flexibility needed to adjust to rapidly changing technology. Codifying FedRAMP will calcify outdated certification policies and requirements and increase the federal government’s inability to keep up with the latest technology.

Including the FedRAMP authorization language of H.R. 3941 in the FY 2021 NDAA would also give the technology companies that have already received certification from the program a permanent advantage over their competitors and be far more costly to taxpayers. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to strike this language from the FY 2021 NDAA.

Sincerely,



cc:  Committee Members