Bullet Point Summary of Waters' bill, H.R. 3317, the "Holding Individuals Accountable and Deterring Money Laundering Act"

- Significantly increases civil monetary penalties for both institutions and individuals for willful and negligent violations of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA).

- Raises the current cap of five years, to twenty years, on the maximum term of imprisonment for individuals convicted of willfully evading a BSA program or control, and requires DOJ to explain to Congress any decision not to pursue prison sentences when a case is settled in exchange for a monetary penalty.

- Strengthens the range of civil powers available to regulators to sanction individuals, including fines for which the individual would be held personally liable and greater authority to remove and ban bad actors from the industry.

- Establishes independent civil litigation authority for FinCEN to empower subject-matter litigators in cases involving violations of U.S. anti-money laundering laws.

- Requires new corporate governance standards to create direct lines of access to the board for the heads of compliance and establishes direct lines of legal responsibility for board members and top executives for BSA violations, including any officers or employees who are in a position responsible for materially affecting compliance.

- Reinforces the responsibility of financial regulators in ensuring banks have effective anti-money laundering programs by requiring regular reporting to FinCEN of all BSA violations, regular reports to Congress by FinCEN, and annual IG reviews of each agency's examination and enforcement activities with regard to BSA compliance.

- Clarifies existing safe harbor protection to encourage greater information sharing between industry and regulators, and expands existing safe harbor to cover all crimes, in addition to money laundering and drug-related crimes.

- Expands the list of crimes that can be a predicate offense to money laundering to cover all felonies, including tax evasion.

- Empowers bank regulators to take enforcement actions directly against any independent contractor that engages in wrongdoing, thereby holding attorneys, appraisers, accountants and consultants to the same enforcement standard as an officer or employee of a bank.

- Updates whistleblower protections by providing modern burdens of proof, allowing an alternate administrative due process, and requiring notice and training to employees.

- Increases rewards for informants to increase the flow of evidence to law enforcement.

- Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to collaborate with foreign counterparts to strengthen anti-money laundering frameworks and enforcement at the global level.

- Requires the GAO to review the mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug offenses and compare them with the discretion provided for determining penalties for individuals who violate U.S. anti-money laundering laws. GAO would also provide recommendations for establishing a more balanced sentencing system.