

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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## MEMORANDUM

May 5, 2023

**To: Members, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation**

**From: Committee Staff**

**Re: Hearing titled “Risky Business: Costly Inaction on Federal Legacy IT”**

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. ET, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation will host a hearing titled “Risky Business: Costly Inaction on Federal Legacy IT.”

**I. BACKGROUND:**

Each year, the federal government spends over \$100 billion on information technology (IT) and cybersecurity.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 80 percent of this spend goes to operating and maintaining outdated, obsolete legacy systems.<sup>2</sup> Legacy systems create security and operational risks and are costly to maintain over time.<sup>3</sup>

**II. HEARING PURPOSE:**

This hearing will examine the risks created by Federal legacy IT and consider options to accelerate the governmentwide modernization of these systems.

**III. WITNESSES:**

**Mr. Kevin Walsh**

Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity  
U.S. Government Accountability Office

**Ms. Suzette Kent**

Chief Executive Officer  
Kent Advisory Services

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. GOV’T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Agencies Need to Develop and Implement Modernization Plans for Critical Legacy Systems*, GAO-21-524T, (April 27, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*