

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

June 24, 2019

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Majority Staff

Re: Hearing on “FITARA 8.0”

On Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee will hold its biannual hearing to assess implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and other information technology (IT) laws.¹ The hearing will examine: (1) whether Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policies are in compliance with FITARA; (2) agency implementation with FITARA and other IT laws; (3) the importance of a direct line of reporting from an agency’s Chief Information Officer (CIO) to the head or deputy of the agency; (4) cost savings that could be realized through data center consolidation; and (5) agency implementation of the Modernizing Government Technology Act and efforts to enhance cybersecurity.

I. FITARA SCORECARD

Committee staff and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) work together to develop a scorecard to assess agencies’ FITARA implementation efforts. This scorecard is issued every six months. The eighth scorecard will be released on the day of the hearing.

Agency FITARA grades typically reflect GAO’s analysis of how agencies are performing in the following FITARA-related categories: (1) incremental development; (2) risk reporting; (3) portfolio management; (4) data center consolidation; (5) software licensing; and (6) modernizing government technology.

The latest scorecard adds a new category relating to the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2014 (FISMA).

¹ Title VIII, Subtitle D of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015, Pub. L. No. 113-291 § § 831-837, 128 Stat. 3425 (2014).

In addition, the agencies' grades are given a symbol ("+" or "-") based on whether the CIO reports directly to the head of the agencies. An indirect reporting structure also lowers the overall grades by a full letter grade for agencies where CIOs do not report to either the head or deputy head of the agency.

This hearing will consist of two panels of witnesses. Suzette Kent, the CIO of OMB, and a witness from GAO will appear on the first panel. GAO will also appear on the second panel with the CIOs from the Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Treasury.

II. WITNESSES

Panel One

Suzette Kent

Federal Chief Information Officer
Office of Management and Budget

Carol Harris

Director, IT Management Issues
Government Accountability Office

Panel Two

Gary Washington

Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Jason Gray

Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Education

Eric Olson

Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Staff contacts: Kristine Lam, Alison Arnold, and Wendy Ginsberg at (202) 225-5051.