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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

May 20, 2022

To: **Democratic Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations**

Fr: **Majority Staff**

Re: **Hearing on "Technology Modernization Fund: Rewriting Our IT Legacy"**

On **Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold a hybrid hearing titled, "Technology Modernization Fund: Rewriting Our IT Legacy." The hearing will convene in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and over Zoom.

Since the early 1990s, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released their "High-Risk List" every two years to identify federal programs and operations that need reform or are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. In 2015, GAO added "improving the management of IT [information technology] acquisitions and operations" to its list.[1] The report stated that out of more than 730 IT modernization recommendations GAO made during the past five years, "only about 23 percent had been fully implemented as of January 2015."[2] In the 2017 report, GAO said that the IT improvement category still needed "substantive attention" and kept IT acquisitions and operations on its High-Risk List in both 2019 and 2021.[3]

In 2017, Congress enacted the Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act, authorizing the Technology Modernization Fund (TMF).[4] The MGT Act tasked the TMF with

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[1] Government Accountability Office, *GAO's 2015 High-Risk Series: An Update* (Feb. 2015) (GAO-15-371T) (online at www.gao.gov/assets/gao-15-371t.pdf).

[2] *Id.*

[3] Government Accountability Office, *High-Risk Series: Substantial Efforts Needed to Achieve Greater Progress on High-Risk Areas* (Mar. 2019) (GAO-19-157SP) (online at www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-157sp); Government Accountability Office, *High-Risk Series: Dedicated Leadership Needed to Address Limited Progress in Most High-Risk Areas* (Mar. 2021) (GAO-21-119SP) (online at www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-119sp).

[4] Technology Modernization Fund, *A New Funding Model for Federal Technology Modernization Projects* (online at https://tmf.cio.gov/projects/) (accessed May 11, 2022).

using data-driven methods to provide agencies with funding to upgrade inefficient "legacy information technology systems."[5] The goal is to provide agencies with funding that can be spent over multiple years to incentivize investments in more modern, nimble IT systems, therefore enabling quicker, more secure, and more efficient service delivery to the American public. These investments, if properly planned for and scoped, can help agencies better execute their missions and serve stakeholders. Since its inception, Congress has provided the TMF a total of $1.175 billion, including $1 billion in the American Rescue Plan.[6]

II.   WITNESSES

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[5] The term "legacy information technology system" is defined as an outdated or obsolete system of information technology. *See* Pub. L. No. 115-91 (2017).

[6] Technology Modernization Fund, *A New Funding Model for Federal Technology Modernization Projects* (online at https://tmf.cio.gov/projects/) (accessed May 11, 2022).