

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
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Good morning, Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today along with Director Halpern and Superintendent Hall.

Since my appointment last April, my staff and I have focused on comprehensively re-orienting and re-structuring our office to provide a positive strategic impact to GPO across all of our areas of effort: Audits, Investigations, and now Inspections. I am pleased to report that, with the help of Congress and the cooperation of the GPO, we have made significant progress.

When I arrived, the office was understaffed at about 50 percent; a level it seemed to struggle to maintain, let alone exceed. After many months of effort, we are finally turning the corner with eight new hires either having joined or in the process of joining my office. We still have much to do to fill the remaining vacancies with the best professionals in the IG Community, but I am optimistic I can make my office a destination of choice because of our focus on quality and impactful work.

In order to offer more proactive and transparent service to GPO, I reorganized my office to add an Inspections Division. It is already paying dividends – their first of several products will be released in the next weeks. I have imposed a dramatic and needed re-focusing of our investigations effort by closing many long standing and unproductive cases, insisting on the development of a task force mentality, and hiring new leadership to keep the division on the right path. Our Audits Division has been directed to emphasize contracting, acquisitions and budget topics, and they published their first audit report since my arrival last month on the agency's Purchase Cards Program.

I also used the occasion of my first Semi-Annual Report to Congress (SARC) and Annual Work Plan, as well as a new Five Year Strategy for my office to completely rework our Agency Management Challenges, overhaul the open Recommendations Program, and revise and remap our office goals to the GPO's strategic goals for the near to mid-term.

In addition to the confirmation of Director Halpern, the passage of the Legislative Branch Inspector General Independence Act of 2019 (Leg. Branch IG Act) was a major accomplishment of this Committee and the Senate Rules Committee for which I am grateful. We worked diligently with committee staff and their work should not go unrecognized. I think it is important to also recognize that passage of this act is just a step in the right direction. Determining just how to ensure the independence so necessary for an IG to be effective is an ongoing and multi-faceted challenge. As

the Inspector General of GPO, this also includes the unique nature of being IG for a legislative branch agency.

That was 2019.

2020 will be a year of *production* for the GPO OIG.

In addition to the already mentioned Purchase Cards Program audit, we will shortly release an inspection report on the Next Generation Passport Program. We are also preparing to release to agency leadership a number of shorter products designed to offer insight into our thinking on various subjects of interest, such as contingent liability, overtime rates, and leave without pay. In the coming year there will be multiple major products coming out of the Inspections and Audits Divisions, both as detailed in our Annual Work Plan and in response to emerging issues and requests.

We will augment the production of our divisions with contract support to provide responsiveness and expertise. I currently have numerous contract proposals working their way through the GPO and Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) approval processes to address the recent Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) website defacement, human capital, customer service, and implementation of new law enforcement authority.

I've also asked the JCP to request GAO revisit two reports it issued 15 years ago addressing GPO's transition to the digital age and needed human capital reforms. In addition to continuing to meet frequently with staff of the various committees with GPO equities, and in order to increase my office's transparency with its stakeholders, I am developing a monthly update to disseminate among the various oversight committees, including Appropriations and GPO leadership. This monthly update will enhance their insight of my office's work without either compromising or creating the appearance of compromising my independence.

For perhaps the first time, and by the end of this calendar year, teams from my office will also be conducting site visits for *all* 16 GPO remote sites around the country to both introduce our work and to evaluate the individual office\facility. Once completed, we will also review the remote site program as a whole.

Within the next nine months, we will aggressively market and present to the entire 1,800 GPO workforce an "IG 101" describing our mission, products and the value of working with and in support of our office. Simultaneously, we will be conducting targeted Fraud Detection and Prevention training to all GPO employees who have any level of interaction with money, services, vendors and products. These efforts will plant the seeds for future cooperation and production.

On the Investigations side, in addition to implementing the law enforcement program requirements associated with the Legislative IG Independence Act of 2019, in order to allow for greater focus of limited resources, I reduced our backlog of open cases from 50 to 17. New investigations initiated by my office must have a strategic emphasis that can assist in rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse at GPO. Therefore, I have directed my AIG/I to develop a "Task Force" investigation to be conducted this year. We will also continue to address potential criminal matters as they arise, such as a GPO-OIG initiated multi-agency contract fraud case in Florida. We anticipate that next month the case will culminate with a guilty plea.

I thank you again for the chance to address you this morning and supporting the work of my office. I look forward to any questions you might have.