

TESTIMONY OF
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BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Chairman Quigley, Ranking Member Graves, Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget request for the Office of Management and Budget, or OMB. The full request of \$127.2 million is a nine percent increase from last year's enacted level. The prioritization of resources in this Subcommittee's jurisdiction does not apply only to OMB—the request level for the overall FSGG bill reflects a seven percent increase over last year's enacted level, even without including the request to transfer the Secret Service to the Department of the Treasury.

I also want to thank the Committee for accepting our request to transfer the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator out of OMB, and for providing it with its own account with the bill. I believe this will help streamline and enhance the missions of both organizations.

This request is the product of an office by office review performed by OMB's senior political leadership in concert with career officials. It reflects needs, not wants. Doing more with less is something to aim for across the Federal enterprise. OMB has reached the limit of more with less, and if present resource trends continue, its mission will suffer. That mission includes working for the taxpayers to make sure that agencies are spending the funds provided by Congress as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The President's Budget, while a marquee product, is only part of that mission. OMB's other functions are an integral part of the basic blocking and tackling that ensures the Federal Government continues to deliver for the American people. From Government-wide information technology (IT) to personnel policy to federal loan oversight to regulatory review to the maintenance of Federal statistical standards, OMB plays a central role in the operation of the Federal enterprise.

The request asks for 44 additional full time equivalents (FTEs), which would bring OMB from 477 FTE to 521 FTE, an increase which would counter a downward trend in OMB's staffing levels that is now more than ten years long.

OMB is requesting \$11.5 million within the Information Technology, Oversight and Reform (ITOR) account, a component included in the overall budget top-line request. The request reflects a shift of resources allocated for operations of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OFCIO) from ITOR to the OMB account. OMB views this transition as harmonizing

the OFCIO's responsibilities under the law and the rapidly-changed digital landscape with its funding streams. This change will continue OFCIO's history of delivering efficiencies and service improvements in agencies' use of IT.

In concrete terms, OMB's responsibilities have increased substantially in recent years. OFCIO, for instance is responsible for the execution of ten different statutes, going back to 1996, seven of which have been enacted in the past five years. In the near future, OMB is likely to be responsible for implementing additional statutory requirements, as the bipartisan interest in Federal IT and management continues to grow in the Congress. While these statutes and the policy objectives they represent are important, they are often costly to execute. Continued downward pressure on our budget combined with additional responsibilities will make it harder, not easier, for us to achieve the objectives the Congress has set out for OMB in this space, usually with huge bipartisan majorities.

In addition, OMB oversees a defense budget that has grown over 20 percent since FY 2016, from \$607 billion to \$740.5 billion. We also provide crucial input on resource decisions with regard to the National Defense Strategy and the National Security Strategy. It is critical for OMB to have the additional resources necessary to oversee this growing portfolio, to ensure these funds are spent effectively and in support of our nation's security.

Finally, while I am here to discuss OMB's 2021 Budget request, I also want to touch on a subject that is critically important Government-wide and this Subcommittee specifically: Making smart Federal real property decisions. Without adequate funding for construction, renovation, and maintenance, the quality of the Federal Government's building inventory will decline, reducing the ability of agencies to meet their missions for the American people. The Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) is designed to accomplish exactly that by collecting agency rent payments and investing those resources back into the FBF portfolio. Unfortunately, over the last nine years, more than \$9 billion in agency rent payments to GSA have been diverted to other uses, including \$1.3 billion in diversion in the FY 2020 Omnibus. I urge this Subcommittee to halt this practice, and follow the Administration's FY 2021 Budget request to set FBF spending equal to FBF collections.

I look forward to discussing these issues further as well as taking your questions.