

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2021

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The 2021 GAO High-Risk List: Blueprint for a Safer, Stronger, More Effective America”

On **Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. E.T.**, the Full Committee will host a hybrid in-person/remote hearing on “The 2021 GAO High-Risk List: Blueprint for a Safer, Stronger, More Effective America.”

I. BACKGROUND

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) maintains a High-Risk Series, updated biennially, to report on federal operations with heightened vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. The Series also includes federal operations that require significant transformation to meet adequate standards of efficiency and effectiveness and to address the country’s challenges. Congressional action on issues identified through the GAO High-Risk List has yielded an estimated \$575 billion in financial benefits since 2006, including approximately \$225 billion in financial benefits in the past two years alone.¹

II. HEARING PURPOSE

On March 2, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will release its 2021 High-Risk List. The list and accompanying report describe the status of high-risk areas relative to their 2019 report and identify new areas of concern.

The hearing will examine the 2021 High-Risk List and accompanying report as a blueprint for opportunities to further advance the health, safety, security, and prosperity of the nation through more effective and efficient federal operations. Specifically, the hearing will address high-risk areas that were added to or removed from the list this year, areas that GAO

¹ Government Accountability Office, *GAO’s 2021 High-Risk Series: Dedicated Leadership Needed to Address Limited Progress in Most High-Risk Areas* (GAO-21-119SP) (Mar. 2, 2021).

identifies as needing significant attention, and notable progress or stagnation on other high-risk areas.

The hearing will also take into account the dramatic shift in national and global circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic since the publication of the last High-Risk List. The acute and pervasive risks caused by the pandemic have exacerbated existing high-risk areas and added new ones to the list. The hearing will examine the need for Congress and the Executive Branch to cooperate on high-risk areas to ensure that the federal government is in the best position possible to restore the health, security, and prosperity of the nation.

III. WITNESS

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office

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