

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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July 13, 2020

Mr. J. Christopher Mihm
Managing Director, Strategic Issues Team
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

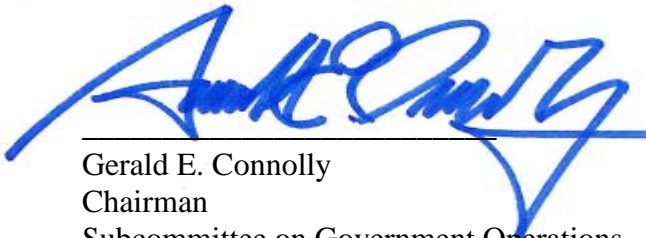
Dear Mr. Mihm:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the hearing that was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020, titled "Frontline Feds: Serving the Public During a Pandemic."

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Monday, July 27, 2020, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Deputy Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member

Questions for Mr. Mihm
Managing Director, Strategic Issues Team, Government Accountability Office
Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

June 25, 2020, Hearing: “Frontline Feds: Serving the Public During a Pandemic”

1. Please describe the work your agency has continued to do throughout this pandemic. What work is GAO conducting to ensure that agencies are generating and implementing comprehensive coronavirus plans effectively? Was GAO’s workforce able to continue its oversight of federal government remotely?
2. What should federal employees be hearing from their agencies about plans to return employees to physical workstations? What are best practices for agency leaders at these critical moments? And are we seeing any of that?
3. How can the Administration and agencies better prepare federal employees to engage the public directly or work in a more crowded environment?
4. What analysis should agencies conduct to determine when and what portion of their workforces reenter physical workspaces or continue telework or administrative leave? Who should be provided with this analysis and justification?
5. Did Administration officials who banned the use of telework across their departments stifle their ability to continue operations during a global pandemic?
6. In the past, working at home with dependents present was not considered an appropriate telework location for federal employees. If a vast majority of federal employees are teleworking and have demonstrated an increase in productivity, would you agree that working with a dependent at home might not be a significant factor in an employees’ performance?
7. What should employer protocols for testing workers look like, both in the initial stages of reopening and in the long-term, as concerns about the pandemic persist? Who are the public health officials that agencies should be listening to when making these decisions?
8. Should agencies establish a unique position within their organizations tasked with designing and implementing effective coronavirus plans? And, if so, what skill sets should such an individual have to occupy this position?