

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2021

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “FITARA 11.0”

On **Friday, April 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold its biannual hearing to assess implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA), Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act, and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA). The hearing will convene in person in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building and remotely using WebEx.

A witness from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will appear to discuss agency progress with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) from the Department of Labor (DOL) and the CIO from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

I. FITARA CONTINUES TO HOLD AGENICES ACCOUNTABLE

In December 2020, the Subcommittee on Government Operations released the latest FITARA Scorecard, the eleventh iteration in just over five years. The Scorecard grades agencies based on their performance of FITARA-related reform activities. The FITARA Scorecard is a tool for Congress, CIOs, agency heads, and outside stakeholders to understand how federal agencies across the enterprise of government are performing in various information technology (IT)-related categories. The Scorecard can be viewed as a way for Congress to hold federal agencies accountable for implementing basic and fundamental IT practices that improve the operation of the federal government.

FITARA 11.0 marks the first time in the Scorecard’s history that all 24 agencies covered by the law have received A’s in a single category, and will be the first time that a category will be retired as a result. Since FITARA’s December 2014 enactment, federal agencies have developed and significantly improved their information technology postures. All 24 agencies are now using comprehensive, regularly updated inventories of their software licenses—allowing these agencies to identify the licenses they have and reduce duplicative software costs. When the Subcommittee added this metric to the Scorecard in June 2017, only two agencies had such inventories. GAO estimates that agencies have saved or avoided more than \$1.7 billion from

fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2020 because they are now using comprehensive, regularly updated inventories of their software licenses.¹

FITARA 11.0 also marks the addition of a new metric, which evaluates agencies' efforts to transition off of the General Services Administration's expiring telecommunications contracts. The new measure, which was previewed in the August 2020 Scorecard, helps ensure that agencies will move toward telecom services that deliver critical services at lower costs to taxpayers.

Since the August 2020 FITARA 10.0 Scorecard, three agencies' overall grades increased, five decreased, and 16 remained unchanged. Further, despite the removal of the software licensing metric, all 24 agencies maintained "passing grades" for the second time in 11 scorecards.

II. WITNESSES

Mr. Gundeep Ahluwalia
Chief Information Officer
Department of Labor

Mr. Jay Mahanand
Chief Information Officer
U.S. Agency for International Development

Mr. Kevin Walsh
Director of Information Technology and Cybersecurity Issues
Government Accountability Office

Staff contacts: Wendy Ginsberg, Cassie Winters, Angela Kendera, and Spencer Reynolds at (202) 225-5051.

¹ Email from the Government Accountability Office to Majority Staff, Subcommittee on Government Operations (Mar. 11, 2021).