

June 18, 2018

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing on “Examination of the GAO Audit Series of HHS Cybersecurity”

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled “Examination of the GAO Audit Series of HHS Cybersecurity.”

This hearing will examine a series of audits that the Energy and Commerce Committee requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) perform on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its component agencies’ cybersecurity programs.

## **II. WITNESSES**

- Sherri Berger, Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Suzi Connor, Chief Information Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Beth Killoran, Chief Information Officer, Department of Health and Human Services; and,
- Greg Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office.

## **III. BACKGROUND**

On December 5, 2013, the Committee on Energy and Commerce requested that GAO “examine the information security controls over key computer networks at HHS agencies,” to include the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).<sup>1</sup> In that request, the Committee noted that HHS and its component agencies “rely extensively on computer systems and networks” to carry out their various missions, and that “[s]ignificant harm to public health and safety could result if the agencies’

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Hon. Fred Upton, the Hon. Tim Murphy, and the Hon. Joseph Pitts, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce to the Hon. Gene Dodaro, U.S. Gov’t Accountability Office. (Dec. 5, 2013) *available at* <https://archives-energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/letters/120513%20GAO%20HHS%20Cyber%20letter.pdf>.

computer systems, networks, and information are not adequately protected against cyber threats.”<sup>2</sup>

GAO accepted the Committee’s request and has continued to work since that time on a series of audits examining information security controls at HHS and its component agencies. This hearing will provide Members an opportunity to learn more about what GAO has found and what steps HHS and cited agencies have taken to address those findings.

For more information on this audit series and the Committee’s past work on this issue, please see:

- GAO’s public audit report of CMS;<sup>3</sup>
- GAO’s public audit report of FDA;<sup>4</sup>
- A blog post from FDA regarding GAO’s audit of FDA;<sup>5</sup> and,
- A blog post from the Committee regarding GAO’s audit of FDA.<sup>6</sup>

#### **IV. STAFF CONTACTS**

Please contact Jessica Wilkerson or Alan Slobodin of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 with any questions.

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> HEALTHCARE.GOV – INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONTROLS SHOULD BE ENHANCED TO ADDRESS WEAKNESSES, U.S. GOV’T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (Sep. 2014), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-871T>.

<sup>4</sup> INFORMATION SECURITY: FDA NEEDS TO RECTIFY CONTROL WEAKNESSES THAT PLACE INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC HEALTH DATA AT RISK, GOV’T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (Sep. 2016), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-513>.

<sup>5</sup> FDA Statement from Todd Simpson, FDA Chief Information Officer (CIO) on GAO Report Regarding FDA’s IT Security Program (Sep. 29, 2016), FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm523150.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Roadmap to Strengthening Cybersecurity: Working Together to Boost Agency Protection, U.S. H. COMM. ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE (Sep. 29, 2016), <https://energycommerce.house.gov/news/blog/roadmap-strengthening-cybersecurity-working-together-boost-agency-protection/>.