

**Public Opening Statement of Chairman Gregg Harper
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Hearing on “An Examination of the GAO Audit Series of HHS
Cybersecurity”
June 20, 2018**

Good afternoon. We are here today to hold a hearing examining the ongoing GAO audit series of HHS cybersecurity programs. Since the Committee submitted its request to GAO in 2013, GAO has performed three audits of major operating divisions within HHS.

Today’s hearing will provide an opportunity for the Subcommittee to learn more about GAO’s findings over this series of audits, as well as the steps taken by HHS and its operating divisions to respond to these findings. Given that GAO has completed three of these audits, today’s hearing will also provide an opportunity to examine HHS cybersecurity roles and responsibilities.

These GAO audits provide a valuable opportunity for HHS and its operating divisions to reflect on its cybersecurity capabilities and improve from one to the next. Today’s hearing will allow us to explore whether or not HHS has indeed taken advantage of these opportunities in the way that we would hope – and expect – that the Department has.

Given the sensitivity of some of the findings identified by GAO, we have determined that it is appropriate for the bulk of this hearing to take place in a closed session.

After opening remarks by Ranking Member DeGette, the Subcommittee will vote to enter closed session and then proceed from there.

I want to thank our witnesses for appearing today, and I now recognize Ms. DeGette for any public comments before we vote to go into closed session.