

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 10, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

I write to you today to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) gather, review, and evaluate all documents and information related to the implementation of the Executive Order titled “Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce” issued January 20, 2025.¹

This new Executive Order reestablishes and amends Executive Order 13957, “Creating Schedule F in the Excepted Service.”² Like its predecessor, “Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Government” will remove all federal employees determined by agencies or the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to be of a “confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character” from the competitive service and place them into a newly created Schedule Policy/Career in the excepted service.³

GAO reported in 2022 that when E.O. 13975 was implemented, “some stakeholders stated that, without due process rights, Schedule F could reduce the willingness of civil service employees to challenge potentially inefficient, unethical, or illegal requests from political staff without fear of removal.”⁴ I now ask that you study how the new EO, issued January 2025,

¹ The White House, *Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce* (Jan. 20, 2025) (online at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-accountability-to-policy-influencing-positions-within-the-federal-workforce/>).

² Exec. Order No. 13957, 85 Fed. Reg 67631 (Oct. 21, 2020).

³ The White House, *Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce* (Jan. 20, 2025) (online at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-accountability-to-policy-influencing-positions-within-the-federal-workforce/>).

⁴ Government Accountability Office, *Civil Service: Agency Responses and Perspectives on Former Executive Order to Create a New Schedule F Category of Federal Positions* (Sept. 28, 2022) (GAO-105504) (online at www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105504.pdf).

impacts the federal civil service.

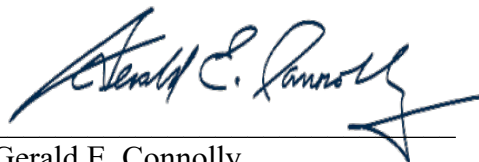
To assist in our oversight of the federal civil service, I request that GAO review and evaluate all documents and information related to actions taken by the Office of Management and Budget, OPM, and any other federal agency in connection with the executive order, and to provide briefings on a regular 3-month cadence to the requesters addressing the following:

1. The implementation of this executive order, including but not limited to:
 - a. Preparation of memoranda and guidance;
 - b. Agency efforts to identify relevant positions, job titles, and job functions; and
 - c. Analyses performed of its impact; and

2. Data on the positions reclassified into the new Schedule Policy/Career, including but not limited to:
 - a. Information from the 24 agencies covered under the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990 (24 CFO Act agencies) on the number, nature, and job descriptions of the positions submitted to OPM for reclassification;⁵
 - b. Information from the 24 CFO Act agencies on the number, nature, and job descriptions of the positions submitted by OPM to the President for reclassification;
 - c. Information from the 24 CFO Act agencies on the number, nature, and job descriptions of the positions that were reclassified; and
 - d. Summary statistics of dismissals or resignations of employees following the reclassification of positions which those employees occupied.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee is the principal committee for all federal workforce oversight. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Minority staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁵ Pub. L. No. 101-576 (1990).