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House of Representatives

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H.R. 3243, FITARA Enhancement Act

July 19, 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman putting this bill on today's markup. I also want to thank Representatives Issa, Meadows, and Kelly for co-sponsoring the FITARA Enhancement Act.

This legislation would extend three expiring provisions of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition and Reform Act, which is better known as FITARA or Issa-Connolly. This bipartisan legislation represented the first major reform of the laws governing federal IT management since the seminal Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, and it was enacted as a provision of the FY2015 NDAA.

When I meet with stakeholders in federal IT from government agencies and industry, I am constantly reminded why previous major IT reform efforts have fallen short of their potential – the lack of a robust implementation plan and congressional oversight. Through countless hearings and briefings, close coordination with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's work on the FITARA Scorecard, Congress is committed to the successful implementation and oversight of FITARA.

In working with GAO and OMB on FITARA implementation, we have found that there are areas of FITARA that would benefit from an extension of their original sunset date. These areas include the provisions on federal data center consolidation, transparency and risk

management of major IT systems (IT Dashboard), and IT portfolio, program, and resource reviews (PortfolioStat).

Very simply, the federal data center problem is bigger than we initially thought. In 2009, when Federal Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra directed agencies to determine how many data centers they had and begin to consolidate those centers, the government estimated it had roughly 1,100 data centers. That estimate grew to 11,700 by 2015.

As GAO has recommended, we are potentially leaving money on the table when it comes to data center consolidation if we allow FITARA's data center reporting and planning requirements to expire in 2018. Twenty-three agencies have reported roughly \$656 million collectively in planned savings for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. This is \$3.3 billion less than the estimated \$4.0 billion in planned savings for fiscal years 2016 through 2018 that agencies reported to GAO in November 2015. As of April 2017, 23 of 24 agencies have submitted a strategic plan for data center consolidation. Of the 23 plans, only 7 included all required information. The remaining plans either partially met or did not meet the requirements.

We need to let agencies know that they are not going to be able to run out the clock on FITARA's transparency and reporting requirements. A limited extension of the data center provisions of FITARA, scheduled to sunset October 1, 2018, could help us do that.

Additionally, the IT Dashboard and PortfolioStat provisions of FITARA have allowed OMB to evaluate the efficiencies and risk of IT investments and would benefit from a permanent extension of the current December 1, 2019 sunset. These are valuable oversight tools, and we should continue to use them to reform federal IT procurement.

The federal government invests roughly \$100 billion in IT each year. I look forward to continued bipartisan collaboration on FITARA implementation to ensure these investments are efficient, effective, and in the best interest of the taxpayer.

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