

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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**Opening Statement**  
**Rep. Robin Kelly, Ranking Member**

**Hearing on "The Federal Information Technology**  
**Acquisition Reform Act's Role in Reducing IT Acquisition Risk"**  
**Subcommittee on Information Technology**

**June 10, 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's oversight hearing on the implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA), bipartisan legislation intended to overhaul the federal government's approach to managing its information technology (IT) resources and save billions of taxpayer dollars.

I would like to commend Representative Gerry Connolly, the Ranking Member of the Government Operations Subcommittee, and co-author of this legislation, for his continued work on federal IT issues and reforms. I look forward to working with him and other members of the Committee in conducting effective oversight of the implementation of this law across the government.

FITARA includes a number of government-wide reforms for managing IT acquisitions and portfolios that will help ensure that the federal government is making wise and efficient investments in IT.

This Committee plays an important oversight role that can increase transparency and accountability of agency efforts and help ensure that the law is effectively implemented.

In February of this year, the Government Accountability Office released its biennial High-Risk Report, which added the new high-risk area "Improving the Management of Information Technology Acquisitions and Operations." GAO found that the federal government spends billions of dollars on failed or poorly performing IT investments.

Effective oversight is a key tool in identifying and reducing this kind of wasteful spending. Congress has a duty to conduct oversight, as well as an obligation to give agencies the tools they need to conduct their own oversight. Agencies need more well-trained acquisition personnel to effectively oversee complex systems and to ensure that the government is a smart and diligent consumer. FITARA recognizes this need.

Congress must also ensure that agencies have the resources to hire and retain qualified personnel that embrace the added authority and additional responsibilities provided to Chief Information Officers by this law. Congress, together with the Administration, should pursue ways to retain their expertise, train them in the most cutting-edge techniques, and support their critical work.

In April 2015, OMB released for public comment proposed guidance on how agencies are to implement FITARA. Today, after soliciting public feedback and conducting numerous outreach sessions with stakeholders and experts, OMB issued its final guidance to agencies on the Management and Oversight of Information Technology Resources.

I want to thank each of the witnesses for testifying today. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how agency implementation of FITARA can improve the management of federal IT.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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