Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Opening Statement
Ranking Member Robin Kelly
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Technology

Hearing on "The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA)
Scorecard 7.0"
Joint Subcommittee on Information Technology and Government Operations
December 12, 2018

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Chairman Meadows, and Ranking Member Connolly for your leadership as our Subcommittees have worked together in a bipartisan fashion to oversee federal IT systems. It's been a privilege to work with you in this important area.

Data breaches and cyberthreats pose a growing threat to the country's largest companies and the federal government. Enhancing federal government IT systems is a critical part of our country's national security plan.

These joint subcommittee hearings on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act hold federal agencies accountable for managing IT systems and processes. Our scorecard grades agencies on their implementation of FITARA's requirements. It also provides transparency about what agencies may still need to do.

Today, our Subcommittees have released the seventh scorecard. It shows real overall progress, and it also highlights specific areas that need more attention. Let me highlight a few notable examples:

First, since May, 10 agencies have increased their overall letter grades, 14 are unchanged, and no agencies have fallen in overall score.

Second, 18 agencies received an "A" grade for their efforts to establish a comprehensive, regularly updated inventory of software licenses. This is more than double the number since the last scorecard.

Third, the scorecard identifies an area of concern: eight agencies received lower scores because their Chief Information Officers still do not report directly to top leadership of the agency. Agencies must comply with Clinger-Cohen and those who seek dotted-line report

structures and unclear flow charts will not receive credit. The reporting structure has a real impact on savings and budgeting for agency IT. GAO has found that CIOs who do not report directly to the heads of their agencies have a weaker ability to manage IT.

Last fiscal year, federal agencies spent approximately $81 billion on IT investments. Compliance with FITARA is critical to ensuring that agencies can make informed IT investment decisions that result in more modern, efficient, and secure technologies.

We continue to preview a new category to grade agencies on their progress to improve their information security programs, as required by the Federal Information Security Management Act. Recent data breaches potentially allowed access to millions of customers' information, including 500 million guest records hacked via the Starwood Hotels reservation database, as announced by Marriott International last week. These cyberattacks highlight the need to strengthen information security in both the government and private sectors.

The progress revealed in today's scorecard is evidence that bi-partisan oversight works and results in more efficient government.

I want to thank the witnesses for testifying today. Your background and expertise will be helpful to us in our oversight of federal government IT capabilities and vulnerabilities.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

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