

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee

Ranking Member Margaret Wood Hassan
Opening Statement

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Thank you Chairman Paul, Members of the Committee, and today's witness, U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro.

Today's hearing is my first as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Federal Oversight and Emergency Management, and I am glad to get to work alongside Chairman Paul.

Granite Staters rightfully expect that their hard-earned taxpayer dollars will be spent wisely and effectively, and this Subcommittee's efforts are critical to helping ensure that happens. I look forward to working with the Chairman on bipartisan efforts to help spur innovation in government, ensure fiscal responsibility, and root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

To that end, I am glad to have Comptroller General Dodaro here today to discuss the Government Accountability Office's 2019 report on how we can reduce duplication in the federal government and save taxpayers billions of dollars. While it's not always easy to build consensus on cost-saving measures, taking aim at federal programs that are fragmented, overlapping, and duplicative should be an area of strong bipartisan agreement. GAO's report identifies dozens of new actions that Congress or executive branch agencies can take to improve efficiency, as well as previous recommendations that still need to be implemented.

Congress and the executive branch have made real progress in acting on the recommendations from GAO's 2011-2018 reports, and the results have been impressive. According to GAO's estimates, we have seen roughly \$262 billion in financial benefits already. But there is still far more work to do.

Mr. Dodaro, thank you again for being here. I look forward to hearing your testimony and continuing to work with you to strengthen oversight of taxpayer dollars. I'll now turn it back to Chairman Paul.