

**“Reviewing the Administration’s Government Reorganization Proposal”**  
**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson**  
**July 18, 2018**

Good morning and welcome,

When I travel around Wisconsin and other parts of the country, I often make the following request to the audience: “Raise your hand if you think the federal government is effective and efficient.” Of the tens of thousands of Americans that I have asked this to, only a couple hundred have raised their hands. This is not surprising: the federal government is a \$4.2 trillion entity that keeps growing by the day, with nearly \$21 trillion in gross debt and headed for an \$873 billion budget deficit this year. Unless the executive branch and Congress curb this growth, the federal government will remain unable to provide effective services to the American public while at the same time driving up our nation’s deficit and long-term debt.

That is why I was pleased when this administration released its plan to reform and reorganize the federal government. This plan lays out more than 30 proposals for both government-wide and agency-specific reforms with the goal of being a more efficient service provider and a more accountable steward of taxpayer dollars. I welcome this “outside-the-box” thinking to improve how the government works for the American people.

Government reorganization is not a new concept. Between 1932 and 1984, presidents used reorganization authority to submit more than 100 reorganization plans to Congress for minor and large-scale reforms. Most recently, in 2012, Senators Joe Lieberman and Mark Warner introduced legislation to provide President Obama the reorganization authority he requested.

To support this Administration’s government reorganization efforts, I and Senator James Lankford introduced the Reforming Government Act of 2018. Modeled after the 2012 legislation, this bill will allow the administration to submit its reorganization proposals to Congress for expedited consideration and approval. The bill also requires the Office of Management and Budget to certify that a reorganization plan will result in cost savings to taxpayers.

To hear more about the Administration’s government reform plan and reorganization recommendations, I am pleased to welcome Margaret Weichert, the Deputy Director of Management at the Office of Management and Budget. I thank her for her service and look forward to her testimony.