

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Chairman

The Honorable Gerald Connolly  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Harley Rouda  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment

Committee on Oversight and Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen:

Yesterday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its 9th annual report on duplication, overlap, and fragmentation in federal programs (“duplication report”).<sup>1</sup> We are disappointed that the Committee and its Subcommittees have no current plans to hold any hearings on the GAO’s 2019 duplication report. Under the past three Chairmen, the Committee held bipartisan hearings to explore topics that GAO identified as needing additional Congressional oversight to save taxpayer dollars.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Gov’t Accountability Off., 2019 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Billions in Financial Benefits (GAO-19-285SP) (May 2019) [hereinafter “2019 duplication report”].

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *Waste and Inefficiency in the Federal Government: GAO’s 2018 Duplication Report: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform*, 115th Con. (2018); *GAO’s Duplication Report at Five Years: Recommendations Remain Unaddressed: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform*, 114th Con. (2015); and *Government 2.0: GAO Unveils New Duplicative Program Report: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform*, 112th Con. (2012).

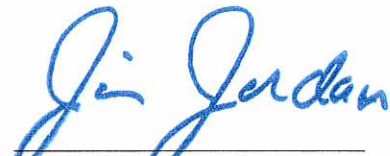
GAO estimates that changes made in response to recommendations in its annual duplication reports since 2011 have saved the federal government hundreds of millions of dollars.<sup>3</sup> The 2019 duplication report similarly has identified 28 new areas and 98 new actions that the federal government could take to save billions of federal dollars and improve the efficiency of the federal government.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, there are hundreds of actions that have not yet been implemented that could save the federal government tens of billions of dollars—some of which were identified in GAO’s first duplication report in 2011.<sup>5</sup>

GAO’s 2019 duplication report includes several areas that relate directly to the jurisdiction of the Committee and each of its subcommittees.<sup>6</sup> This duplication report should be a blueprint for our bipartisan oversight to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government. We respectfully request that each Subcommittee Chairman commit to working with his Ranking Member to use the 2019 duplication report to develop an oversight agenda, including hearings, letters, and legislation as appropriate, to address open actions within the subcommittee’s jurisdiction.

As Chairman Cummings has counseled before, “our work in this Committee must not be driven by the next election.”<sup>7</sup> We hope that the Committee Democrats will stop their relentless focus on partisan attacks and work with Republicans on bipartisan solutions to improve the efficiency and operations of the government. We look forward to hearing from you on how we can work together to address these outstanding reform opportunities identified in GAO’s 2019 duplication report.

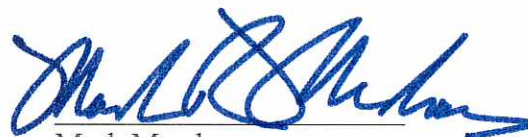
Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,




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Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member



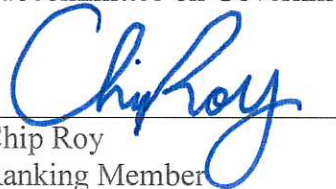
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Mark Meadows  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Operations



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Jody Hice  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security



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Chip Roy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

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<sup>3</sup> 2019 duplication report, *supra* note 1.

<sup>4</sup> 2019 duplication report, *supra* note 1.

<sup>5</sup> 2019 duplication report, *supra* note 1.

<sup>6</sup> For example, the 2019 report highlights the need for the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration to strengthen implementation of shared services reform efforts to achieve their savings goal of \$2 billion over ten years.

<sup>7</sup> *115th Congress Organizational Meeting Before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform*, 115th Cong. 7, 10 (2017) (statement of Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform).

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Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer  
Policy



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment