

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery by Chair Maggie Hassan**

**Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight Subcommittee Hearing:**

**Examining the Findings and Recommendations of GAO's 2024 Report on Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Financial Benefits**

**May 15, 2024**

Good afternoon. Today, the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight holds its annual hearing on the Government Accountability Office's report on duplication, fragmentation, and overlap in federal programs.

Led by Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, the Government Accountability Office – or GAO – is a critical partner in this Subcommittee's work to save taxpayer dollars and improve government services for the American people.

This annual report identifies ways to save taxpayer dollars through more efficient and effective management. The report is a roadmap for agencies and Congress to make common-sense reforms, increase coordination, improve program outcomes, and exercise fiscal responsibility.

Since 2011, congressional and executive actions to implement GAO recommendations have resulted in \$667 billion in cost savings and other financial benefits for the government and taxpayers. This includes more than \$71 billion in the past year alone.

I look forward to hearing from Comptroller General Dodaro and our GAO subject matter experts about this year's recommendations for improving government performance. I am committed to working in a bipartisan way to eliminate duplication, overlap, and fragmentation to save taxpayer dollars and improve outcomes for the American people, and I look forward to continuing to work with Ranking Member Romney and my other colleagues to review these recommendations and develop ways to implement them.

Thank you, Mr. Dodaro and your team, for testifying today. I look forward to our discussion today and continuing our collaboration on these issues.