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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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June 5, 2017

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on March 9, 2017, stating that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) obligated over \$10.4 billion for contracted services, which constituted over 76% of DHS's total contract spending in FY 2015.¹ Contractors perform a wide array of critical functions including supporting DHS acquisitions, maintaining facilities, or maintaining equipment. GAO's prior audits of DHS and other federal agencies have shown several challenges related to services acquisition, including collecting adequate data on the current state of service acquisitions, determining and validating the need for services contracts, and using information on contracted services to make informed workforce decisions.

Given the large percentage of DHS spending that goes to service contracts, I request that GAO assess:

- 1) Trends in DHS spending on contracted services including the extent to which DHS is using strategic sourcing for services;
- 2) How DHS reports on contracted services in its budget requests to Congress; and
- 3) DHS's requirements process for contracted services and the extent to which this process helps inform workforce decisions.

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Haley Friedman with the Majority Staff at (202) 224-4751 or Timothy Brennan with the Minority Staff at (202) 224-1839.

Sincerely,


Ron Johnson
Chairman


Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

¹ Government Accountability Office, *Contracting Data Analysis: Assessment of Government-wide Trends*, (GAO-17-244) (March 2017).