

**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 2022 Report on Duplication,  
Overlap, Fragmentation and Opportunities to Achieve Financial Benefits  
June 14, 2022**

Good afternoon. The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight organized today's hearing to discuss the Government Accountability Office's 2022 annual report on duplication, fragmentation, and overlap in federal programs, so that we may identify opportunities to save taxpayer dollars and improve services by increasing government efficiency.

Government Accountability Office – or GAO – Comptroller General Gene Dodaro joins us today. We are also joined by several GAO subject matter experts who contributed to this year's report, including Allison Bawden, Cathleen Berrick, A. Nicole Cowers, Elizabeth Curda, Dan Garcia-Diaz, Charles Michael Johnson, Jr., Jessica Lucas-Judy, Marie A. Mak, Nick Marinos, and Candice Wright. Their testimony will provide the subcommittee with greater understanding of the challenges agencies face, as well as the recommendations that GAO has for addressing those challenges.

Twelve years ago, Congress tasked GAO with producing an annual report on federal programs that have duplicative goals that may lead to wasteful spending. Since the first report was published in 2011, this annual report has led to \$531 billion in cost savings and other financial benefits. And it estimates at least another \$21 billion in financial benefits could be achieved if agencies and Congress take action on their recommendations. Congress and executive agencies' actions to address the nearly 1,300 recommendations made in these annual reports have not only saved taxpayer dollars, but also have improved agency performance and resource management, and led to better delivery of services to the American people.

I remain firmly committed to ensuring that Congress does its part to eliminate duplication, overlap, and fragmentation to achieve cost savings for taxpayers and improve program outcomes. I was proud to once again partner with Ranking Member Paul last year to reintroduce the bipartisan Acting on the Annual Duplication Report Act, which directly responds to GAO's recommendations for congressional action called for in the 2019, 2020, and 2021 annual duplication reports, and I will continue to work with my congressional colleagues to pass these commonsense proposals.

Once again, thank you to Mr. Dodaro and to your team for testifying today. I look forward to today's discussion on how Congress and federal agencies can work to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars.