

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
SENATOR GEORGE V. VOINOVICH  
MARCH 31, 2009**

**“STABILITY THROUGH SCANDAL: A REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
FINANCIAL OFFICER.”**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, and thank you for holding this hearing to discuss both the progress made and challenges still facing the District of Columbia. The District’s progress since the 1990’s has been something Senator Akaka and I have followed-closely while on this Subcommittee and I look forward to learning today from our witnesses about their next steps.

Perhaps a testament to the leadership of Dr. Gandhi, the District recently announced its 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive balance budget amidst the national economic hardship and continues to boast an annual surplus.

However, as the testimony we will hear today demonstrates, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer could benefit from corrective action, such as enhanced internal controls and accountability measures. The Office must ensure it recruits the personnel necessary to enforce these needed process improvements and we must do more to ensure that the pool of recruits exists – supported by our institutions of higher learning.

This testimony brings necessary attention to challenges that still remain and recommendations that, if implemented, could make the office more effective and less prone to abuse.

I hope that today we can discuss these obstacles and work towards common-sense solutions.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for calling today’s hearing. I look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses.