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# Congress of the United States

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### Statement of Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

#### Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform

#### “Transparency and Federal Management IT Systems”

July 14, 2011

Thank you, Chairman Lankford and Ranking Member Connolly, for convening today’s hearing on transparency and federal management of IT systems.

As I have said at previous hearings that examined these issues, I firmly believe that transparency and accountability are of critical importance and that the federal government must be held accountable for its expenditure of taxpayers’ hard-earned money.

Federal IT systems should enhance efficiency and effectiveness. To that end, I commend this Administration’s ongoing efforts to improve public access to data and use that data to drive accountability. In particular, I am grateful for the tremendous efforts undertaken by one of our witnesses today, Mr. Vivek Kundra, who has faithfully served our country as its first federal Chief Information Officer.

Over the course of his tenure, Mr. Kundra has worked diligently to improve our federal IT infrastructure by strengthening our country’s cybersecurity, working to reform the way the government purchases and uses IT, promoting the use of innovative technologies such as cloud computing, and enhancing IT oversight through the IT Dashboard and TechStat accountability sessions. The Office of Management and Budget has credited Mr. Kundra’s efforts with saving an estimated \$3 billion.

Though Mr. Kundra will be leaving the Obama Administration for a position at Harvard University in a few weeks, he has left us with a 25-point plan to reform federal IT management. It is my hope that this Administration will continue to meet the plan’s objectives and push for greater efficiency and effectiveness with the same vigor that Mr. Kundra has shown for the last two-and-a-half years.

I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses and to working with Chairman Lankford and Ranking Member Connolly to identify and address areas where federal transparency and IT management can continue to be improved.

Thank you.

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