

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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### Opening Statement

Rep. Robin Kelly, Ranking Member

## Hearing on “The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Scorecard 3.0: Measuring Agencies’ Implementation” Subcommittee on Information Technology

December 6, 2016

As this session of Congress draws to an end, I want to thank you, Chairman Hurd, Chairman Meadows and Ranking Member Connolly for your leadership and partnership during the two years our Subcommittees have been working together to monitor how federal agencies manage their information technology (IT) projects.

In that timeframe, our Subcommittees have held extensive hearings that examined the state of IT at almost every federal agency, and heard testimony from the majority of federal Chief Information Officers on the challenges they face in overhauling the management of IT resources.

Our Subcommittees also worked together to develop our very own scorecard for grading agency progress in implementing the requirements of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA. Last November, we released the first of these scorecards, and held our first hearing to discuss the grades of three agencies. Since then, our Subcommittees have released updated scorecards at least twice a year, and held hearings with different agencies to hold them accountable for implementing the FITARA provisions.

Since we first began conducting oversight over the 24 agencies FITARA covers, we have already seen a marked improvement with several of those agencies. For example, since the release of our last scorecard, NASA’s overall grade went from an “F” to a “C+.” Similarly, the Departments of Education and Energy also showed substantial improvement since the last scorecard, going from an “F” to a “C.” Overall, since May of this year, 12 agencies have shown improvement in their overall grades.

Looking beyond the grades, I am encouraged by the responsiveness of most agencies and their progress to date in FITARA implementation. Notably, Government-wide, data center consolidations alone have realized over **\$1.6 billion** in savings.

These are all good first steps. But it’s clear that there remain obstacles to overcome in implementation. The new scorecard shows that some agencies have hit roadblocks, and that some have fallen behind in implementation.

I believe that our oversight hearings have helped improve accountability of IT management in federal agencies. I believe hearings like these will be as important next year, and I hope there will be bipartisan interest in holding the next administration to the same high standards we have held the current administration.

The stakes are simply too high when it comes to improving the efficiency and security of the federal government's IT systems. The federal government's IT acquisition process isn't just an inefficient use of taxpayer money. It also poses a security risk, as too many agencies are still having to rely on outdated, legacy-IT systems that with each passing year, cost more and more to secure and maintain.

I want to thank the witnesses for testifying today. I know that an overhaul of your IT acquisition and management is not an easy task. So I look forward to hearing how your agencies are handling the challenges in implementing FITARA.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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