GREG WALDEN, OREGON
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FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

MEMORANDUM

June 18, 2018

To: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Democratic Members and Staff

Fr: Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic Staff

Re: Closed Hearing on "Examination of the GAO Audit Series of HHS Cybersecurity"

On **Wednesday, June 20, at 1:00pm in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a closed hearing entitled, "Examination of the GAO Audit Series of HHS Cybersecurity." The Majority announced in its notice that this hearing will be closed to the public, pursuant to Rule XI(2)(g)(2)(A) of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I. BACKGROUND

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has conducted a series of cybersecurity audits at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).[1] HHS works to "enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans"[2] through its 11 operating divisions, including, for example, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.[3] These agencies rely on information technology systems in their everyday work with public health data.

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[1] *See, e.g.*, Government Accountability Office, *FDA Needs to Rectify Control Weaknesses That Place Industry and Public Health Data at Risk* (Aug. 2016) (GAO-16-513) (finding "a significant number of security control weaknesses").

[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *About HHS* (www.hhs.gov/about/index.html).

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *HHS Agencies & Offices* (www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/hhs-agencies-and-offices/index.html).

The HHS Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) provides policies and guidance to HHS agencies on the use of information technology and systems. Among other responsibilities, OCIO is tasked with:

- Establishing goals for developing threat protection capabilities;
- Addressing the evolving cyber threat environment;
- Monitoring HHS systems for security and privacy compliance; and
- Responding to breaches of privacy information.[4]

As part of its oversight of HHS cybersecurity, the Committee will seek information about how HHS is responding to GAO's series of audits. Specifically, this hearing will focus on GAO's recommendations on how HHS can protect its cyber infrastructure. The Committee will also explore questions about how OCIO is (1) coordinating cybersecurity improvement efforts across HHS agencies, (2) overseeing the implementation of GAO's recommendations, and (3) applying lessons learned from GAO's audits to other HHS agencies.

II. WITNESSES

Sherri Berger
Chief Operating Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Suzi Connor
Chief Information Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Beth Killoran
Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Gregory C. Wilshusen
Director, Information Security Issues
Government Accountability Office

[4] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Chief Information Office, *What We Do* (www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asa/ocio/about-ocio/what-we-do/index.html).