

MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING, CHAIRMAN

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
PATRICK TOOMEY, PENNSYLVANIA
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
BOB CORKER, TENNESSEE
DAVID A. PERDUE, GEORGIA
CORY GARDNER, COLORADO
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
RON WYDEN, OREGON
DEBBIE STABENOW, MICHIGAN
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON
TIM KAINE, VIRGINIA
ANGUS S. KING Jr., MAINE
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
KAMALA D. HARRIS, CALIFORNIA

ELIZABETH McDONNELL, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR
WARREN GUNNELS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
www.budget.senate.gov

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6100

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-0642 FAX: (202) 224-4835

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

As Congress continues its work on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills, I invite your attention to an important tool for identifying and eliminating waste and duplication across the government: the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, *Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*, GAO-18-371SP, issued in April 2018.

Since 2011, this annual report has introduced more than 700 action items across 275 issue areas for Congress and executive branch agencies to reduce, eliminate, or better manage fragmentation, overlap, or duplication; achieve cost savings; and enhance revenue. Agencies and Congress have completely or partially addressed approximately 76 percent of these actions, which GAO estimates has produced approximately \$178 billion in savings and other financial benefits.

But more work remains. This year's report, which was the subject of a recent hearing of the Senate Committee on the Budget, identifies actions that have yet to be addressed – including new actions identified for the first time and those that are only partially addressed. GAO estimates that by fully implementing these open actions, tens of billions of dollars could be saved without adversely affecting services on which many Americans rely. There are a number of actions relevant to your subcommittee, which I have provided in the enclosure attached along with a copy of the full report.

By implementing the actions in GAO's report, Congress can improve government performance and stewardship of taxpayer dollars. This is a goal that I believe both parties share, and I ask for your careful consideration of these items as the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process moves forward.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Alison McGuire on my Budget Committee staff at (202) 224-2887.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael B. Enzi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael B. Enzi
Chairman

Enclosure

Recommendations of the Government Accountability Office on “Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits”
GAO Report Number: GAO-18-371SP

Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Open GAO Recommendations to Congress:

- Congress may wish to consider requiring agencies to participate in International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS) unless they provide a business case to show that they can obtain these services outside of ICASS without increasing overall costs to the U.S. government or that their mission cannot be achieved within ICASS. (2012-20-01-C)

Open GAO Recommendations to Executive Agencies:

- The Department of State and the Commission on International Religious Freedom should review the delineation of roles and missions. (2014-11-01-E)
- The Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development should conduct a review of the adequacy of current foreign assistance data on foreignassistance.gov and potential improvements to the reporting process. (2017-14-01-E, 2017-14-02-E)