

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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### Opening Statement Ranking Member Robin Kelly

#### “State of Play Federal IT”

March 14, 2018

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling today’s hearing on the federal government’s information technology (IT). These two subcommittees have prioritized holding agencies accountable for their compliance with the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and the effort to modernize our legacy IT systems.

We have managed to work in a bipartisan manner not only to conduct oversight but to introduce legislation seeking to address the nation’s IT and cybersecurity problems.

Improving the efficiency and security of the federal government’s IT systems is essential to our nation’s security. In order to improve the efficiency and security, we must modernize legacy IT systems across every federal agency.

The federal government spends nearly \$60 billion just to sustain its existing outdated IT. When agencies must spend 75 percent of their IT budgets merely to maintain legacy system, they predictably fall behind in the effort to modernize.

This is why the Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act of 2017 is critical to shoring up our nation’s cybersecurity and moving us forward.

MGT is now law. It creates a working capital fund called the Technology Modernization Fund that will have money for efforts like cloud migration and for agency CIOs to think creatively about modernizing.

The next couple of months will determine whether the MGT Act is allowed to spur that type of innovation. I was pleased to see that the President’s proposed budget called for \$228 million for the Modernization Fund.

OMB Director Mulvaney recently released a memo to agencies with guidance on MGT’s implementation. The board overseeing the modernization fund is in place. It is now up to Congress to fund this important effort. Our government technology is too outdated to allow this opportunity to pass us by.

By allocating these funds, we further our goals under FITARA to fully empower agency CIOs. I view the MGT Act as the natural complement to FITARA. We cannot speak about important efforts like moving to the cloud and data center consolidations without providing the funding necessary to make that happen.

In addition to modernizing our technology, we must modernize our federal workforce to make sure they have tools and skills necessary to address the problems of not only today but tomorrow.

In 2016, GAO found that the evolving array of cyber-based threats continue to pose a risk to our national security. The Government's inability to attract and retain qualified cyber professionals throughout the government threatens our ability to address these cyber threats. Therefore, attracting IT and cybersecurity talent is critical to the safety of every American and the security of our country.

I hope that our witnesses can update us on the state of federal IT and how each agency plans to address the opportunities and challenges facing the federal government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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