Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Committee on Oversight and Reform
Opening Statement on H.R. 5901,
The Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program Act
September 16, 2020

The bill before us is the product of excellent bipartisan work by Representative Khanna and our previous
Ranking Member, Mr. Meadows.

The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute is identical to the legislation by Senators Rob Portman and
Maggie Hassan that was reported favorably by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Committee in July.

In 2017, the General Services Administration established the Centers of Excellence program to provide
state-of-the-art technology best practices and expertise to assist federal agencies with information technology
modernization.

Today, there are six Centers of Excellence that support agencies in the strategically vital areas of
artificial intelligence, cloud adoption, contact centers, customer experience, data and analytics, and
infrastructure optimization.

This legislation would codify this important program and authorize GSA to support agencies in
modernizing IT and customer service, improving cooperation with the IT sector,
commercial cloud computing system improvements, infrastructure optimization, and data management.

This assistance would be provided on a reimbursable basis and include transparency measures to ensure
agreements are both effective and efficient.

Technology evolves at such a rapid pace that it can be almost unrecognizable from one year to the next. The federal government needs commonsense solutions to help it keep pace so that it can better serve all
Americans.

I am proud to support this important government modernization bill and urge my colleagues to do the
same.

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