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**House of Representatives**

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**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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