

Chairman Will Hurd — Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Government Operations and Information Technology
“General Services Administration – Acquisition Oversight and Reform”
Wednesday, July 12, 2017

AS PREPARED:

It is good to be here once again in partnership with the Government Operations Subcommittee and Chairman Meadows and Ranking Member Connolly.

This is our third joint hearing of this Congress and I look forward too many more.

In March, we held a joint subcommittee hearing to review challenges in federal acquisition of IT. What we heard was alarming.

For example, the number of first-time federal vendors has fallen to a 10-year low - down from 24 percent in 2007 to only 13 percent in 2016.

The federal government is supposed to buy commercial, but with **34 different definitions of "commercial item" in federal regulations** and 138 potentially applicable clauses for such transactions - it's hardly a situation conducive to commercial viability.

One of our witnesses at the March hearing, Dee Lee, Chair of the Section 809 Panel urged Congress to "GO BOLD". Another witness stated that, "The time was ripe to change the way the federal government acquired IT."

I look forward to hearing today how the reorganization of TTS will help GSA fulfill its mission.

I am also interested in hearing an update on the FEDRAMP program and ways that we can help streamline this cumbersome, but important process.

Lastly, I want to applaud Chairman Thornberry's efforts to streamline acquisition within the Department of Defense and across the federal government-wide.

In an era when the click of a button can deliver nearly every imaginable consumer good, there's no reason why the U.S. Government should be jumping through expensive hoops to buy a new pack of pencils.

This is not an easy issue to reform. We have great challenges in front of us, but we also have an opportunity to significantly streamline our nation's outdated acquisition process.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today.

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