GAO is an independent, nonpartisan agency that supports Congress. GAO is led by the Honorable Gene Dodaro, the Comptroller General of the United States who is nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and serves a 15-year term. We provide timely, fact-based, non-partisan information that can be used to improve government and save taxpayers billions of dollars by

- auditing agency operations to determine whether federal funds are being spent efficiently and effectively
- investigating potential fraud, waste, and improper activities
- reporting on how well government programs and policies are meeting their objectives

GAO's range of congressional services includes

- published reports with reliable, independent findings
- witnesses for hearings
- briefings on GAO work
- general short term assistance such as obtaining information or analyzing policy options

Contact us to request GAO work or to speak with a GAO expert. For general assistance, please contact our Congressional Relations Office or any of our Congressional Relations advisors by calling (202) 512-4400. You can also e-mail our staff at CongRel@GAO.gov.
Welcome to the 115th Congress

GAO is here to help you. Here's how to connect with us.

- **Schedule a “House Call.”** GAO staff will come to your location to help you subscribe to our online resources—which include podcasts, e-mails about our published reports, Twitter feeds, RSS feeds, and a Facebook page. We can also demonstrate our website, and provide an overview of our other information and services.

- **Test drive our websites.** Check out our main website, www.gao.gov, and Watchdog, watchdog.gao.gov, a GAO site exclusively for Members and their staff.

- **Meet your GAO Congressional Relations Advisor.** An advisor is assigned as a liaison to each House and Senate Committee. Go to https://watchdog.gao.gov and click on “contact us” for a list of advisors by committee.
## Requests to GAO: Process and Timing

### Making a Request

**Send a request letter** via e-mail to our Congressional Relations office. Requests from the chair or ranking member of a committee or subcommittee have priority.

The topic should fall within the jurisdiction of their committee or subcommittee.

- Our Congressional Relations office will let you know we have **received your letter**.
- **If we accept your request,** we will e-mail a letter telling you who you can contact and when we expect to start work.

### Initiating the Audit

**GAO assembles the team** and initiates the work.

The timing of initiation depends on staff availability.

- We will **contact you** within 20 days of initiating your job for additional information.
- **We will tell you** when we think we can deliver a finished product, but the issuance date isn't set until after agency review.
- **This schedule** is based on many factors, including the scope of the questions being asked.

### Designing the Audit

The team meets with GAO experts, stakeholders, and management to **design an audit method**—one that is fact-based and can support our findings and potential recommendations.

This process typically takes about 3 months.

- After the team has **committed** to an audit method, we will contact you to explain how we plan to answer your request.
- If there is work we are doing that is of interest to you, you may ask to **become a co-requester**. Check WatchDog for ongoing work.

### Providing Briefings

You can **ask for a briefing** on the status of our work or for preliminary findings at any point during our audit.

- **The only information** about your request that we will share with others are the questions, scope, and methodology of the audit.
- **If you want others to have access to briefings**, they must formally become co-requesters.

### Agency Review

We will send our draft report to the agencies we audited for comment.

At this time, you will also receive an informational copy.

- **Agencies get up to a month to review and respond** to our findings and recommendations.
- **Agency review and comments** do not affect the independence of our review or the report we release (although we may make technical corrections).
- We will publish written agency comments, if provided, in an appendix to the report.

### Issuing the Report

We typically issue the report **about 14 days** after receiving agency comments.

We will contact you to confirm this date.

- **When a report is issued**, the original requesters (but not co-requesters) can **restrict its public release** of the report for up to 30 days.

### To find your request on Watchdog

- Hover over "Legislative" mega menu
- Click on Congressional Websites
- Scroll down to GAO Watchdog

### HouseNet (House):

- under the Legislative Branch Sites links
- click Government Accountability Office (Congressional Site)

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Congressional Relations: 202-512-4400, CongRel@GAO.gov  
Our website is part of our continuing effort to disseminate our work through a broad range of channels. Here’s some of what you can find there:

**Reports & Testimonies**
Browse or search GAO work, including audits of agency operations; investigations into allegations of illegal or improper activities; and policy analyses and options for congressional consideration.

**Legal Decisions & Bid Protests**
Access work from GAO’s Office of General Counsel, which issues legal decisions, opinions, and reports on bid protests, appropriations law, and other issues of federal law.

**Key Issues & Special Collections**
GAO’s Key issue pages provide quick background and identify pressing concerns in various subject areas, sharing key GAO reports, multimedia, and contacts. Collections such as GAO’s High Risk List and Fiscal Outlook are key resources for Congress and taxpayers.

**Resources For...**
Collected resources for specific user groups: the Congress and congressional staff, the media, the auditing and accountability community, federal managers, and researchers.

For more information, contact GAO’s Office of Public Affairs at 202-512-4800 or contact@gao.gov
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Whether they’re at their desks or on the go with their mobile devices, Congress and the American people can connect with us on our social and digital media platforms.

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**Twitter:** New reports, testimonies, podcasts, and legal decisions and opinions are shared on GAO’s Twitter. [@usgaow and @usgaow_legal](http://twitter.com/usgaow)

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**Flickr:** Report graphics can be viewed and downloaded from GAO’s Flickr page. [flickr.com/photos/usgaow](http://flickr.com/photos/usgaow)

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**WatchBlog:** GAO’s WatchBlog shares highlights from the agency’s work on tracking taxpayer dollars and promoting accountability. [blog.gao.gov](http://blog.gao.gov)

**RSS:** Subscribe to GAO’s RSS feeds to get the latest updates delivered directly to your desktop. You can follow all our feeds, or select the sets or topics that reflect your interests. [gao.gov/feeds.html](http://gao.gov/feeds.html)

**Emails:** GAO e-mail updates notify you when publications are posted to our Web site. We have daily and monthly update options, or you can choose particular topic areas. [gao.gov/subscribe](http://gao.gov/subscribe)

**Apps:** GAO’s official mobile app provides mobile device users with direct, simple access to new reports, testimonies, legal decisions, bid protests, videos, and podcasts. Free downloads from the iTunes store or Google Play.

**Podcasts:** The GAO Watchdog Report podcasts provide 5-minute interviews with GAO officials on significant issues and new reports. Subscribe via the RSS feed or iTunes. [gao.gov/podcast/watchdog.html](http://gao.gov/podcast/watchdog.html)

**Webchats:** In our AskGAOLive webchats, GAO officials answer questions received live via e-mail and Twitter on recently-issued reports. Check out our previous chats and watch the next one live. [new.livestream.com/gaolive](http://new.livestream.com/gaolive)

For more information, contact GAO’s Office of Public Affairs at 202-512-4800 or contact@gao.gov
Watchdog

GAO's Website for Members of Congress and Congressional Staff

Find Ongoing Work
- Search for unreleased GAO work-in-progress
- Find reports you might ask to join as a co-requestor
- Identify the points of contact for questions about ongoing work

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- by topic
- by report

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watchdog.gao.gov
on the House and Senate Intranets

GAO's Office of Congressional Relations, 2-4400
GAO's Office of Congressional Relations
Here to Help You Get the Information You Need

GAO, the “Congressional Watchdog,” works for Congress to review how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars and how federal programs can be improved.

GAO provides the following services specifically for Members of Congress:
- Quick turnaround assistance, such as data and policy analysis
- Briefings on GAO work for Members and staff
- Expert responses to your questions
- Assistance with hearings that includes GAO expert testimony and questions for witnesses
- Graphics and other materials in easy-to-download formats

The Office of Congressional Relations Advisors can help you obtain the non-partisan, fact-based information you need. They can
- provide updates on the status of GAO work and recommendations,
- help you subscribe to GAO’s online resources, and
- connect you with GAO experts

New to the Hill? Sign up for a “GAO 101” session offered through the House Learning Center and Senate Office of Education.

GAO’s Office of Congressional Relations
(202) 512-4400
CongRel@GAO.gov

Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

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