Office of Congressional Relations
(202) 512-4400
congrel@gao.gov
What we will cover today

What is GAO?

- Mission, authority, and scope of work
- Basis of credibility
- Scope of work

How can you use GAO products and services?

- Use reports and testimonies
- Tap our experts
- Access content through social media
- Request work
GAO’s mission

GAO exists to support the Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people.
Among other things, GAO has statutory authority to

- “investigate all matters related to the receipt, disbursement and expenditure of public funds” and
- “evaluate the results of a program or activity the Government carries out under existing law.”

See 31 U.S.C. §§ 712, 716 and 717 for GAO’s primary statutory authorities.
Basis of GAO’s credibility

Work is

- guided by organizational values,
- performed according to applicable professional standards, and
- produced by highly trained staff who often perform field work or original analysis.
GAO’s scope of work

- Evaluations of federal programs and performance
- Financial and management audits
- Policy analyses
- Legal opinions
- Bid protest adjudications
- Investigations
Use our written products
Biennial status reports on 32 major government operations that GAO considers high risk because they are vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or are in need of broad-based transformation. GAO-17-1SP
Fragmentation, overlap, and duplication reports

- GAO has issued 7 reports (2011-2017) identifying over 500 actions to help programs achieve greater efficiencies or become more effective in providing government services.
Our staff are organized around areas of expertise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team (ASM)</td>
<td>Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (FAIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Research and Methods (ARM)</td>
<td>Health Care Team (HC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense Capabilities and Management (DCM)</td>
<td>Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Workforce, and Income Security (EWIS)</td>
<td>Information Technology (IT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management and Assurance (FMA)</td>
<td>International Affairs and Trade (IAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Markets and Community Investment (FMCI)</td>
<td>Natural Resources &amp; Environment (NRE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Infrastructure (PI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strategic Issues (SI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Services our experts provide

- Witnesses at hearings
- Support for hearings
- Briefings
- Informal answers to questions and advice
In fiscal year 2016, GAO witnesses testified at 119 hearings, which covered a wide range of international and national issues.
Using today's technology to share GAO’s work with Congress and the American people.
How are requests made for reports?
- Submit requests in writing to the Comptroller General

How does GAO prioritize requests?
- Statutorily required studies (mandates)
- Requests from senior congressional leaders and chair and ranking members of committees
Members may request in writing that GAO

- conduct an audit or investigation
- add them as co-requesters
- provide a witness to testify

Requests should include

- the nature of the request
- the requesting Member’s signature, title, and committee affiliation
- a staff point of contact
Requester will be

- notified when GAO has accepted the request
- contacted by GAO to better understand the requester’s information needs
- asked to approve or decline co-requesters
- given periodic briefings
- provided a draft written product and notified before the product is issued
- given the option of restricting products for up to 30 calendar days
GAO’s Congressional Protocols describe

- the scope of GAO’s audit authority
- criteria GAO considers before accepting requests
- GAO’s commitments to requestors
- GAO’s priorities for initiating work
GAO’s congressional relations office

Congressional relations advisors will help you

- write request letters and statutorily required studies (mandates)
- connect with GAO experts
- obtain available products and services
- understand GAO’s protocols and planned work
Contacting GAO for assistance

Contact GAO’s Congressional Relations Office to obtain assistance

- call: (202) 512-4400
- e-mail: congrrel@gao.gov
- visit: watchdog.gao.gov