

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

September 27, 2016

The Honorable Brigadier General (ret.) Greg Touhill
Federal Chief Information Security Officer
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Brigadier General Touhill,

Thank you for your public service and for your willingness to take on this new assignment. Like many Americans, I am deeply concerned about the continued failures of the public and private sector to adequately address cybersecurity. Your position will be integral in helping to protect the personal and proprietary information of Americans in the 21st century. I look forward to working with you on these important issues.

I am writing today about a recent GAO report that highlights two disturbing facts: Cyberattacks on our federal government have increased by 1,300 percent in ten years. Yet over 1,000 GAO recommendations to improve cybersecurity have failed to be implemented by federal agencies as of September 16, 2016.

Please let me know the following:

1. In your view, why have our federal agencies failed to implement the numerous GAO recommendations to improve their cybersecurity?
2. What can Congress do to help agencies better address their cybersecurity needs?
3. Are there GAO recommendations that you believe should not be implemented?

Having questioned numerous witnesses during the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearings on the massive cyber breaches at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) last year, it was clear to me that agency leadership did not prioritize cybersecurity and failed to implement basic cybersecurity measures. I am sure you will agree that we must do more to protect the federal government from harmful security breaches. The GAO report casts doubt on whether federal agencies have learned anything from the OPM cyber disaster.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am happy to meet with you in the near future to discuss this and other important cybersecurity issues. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to have your staff reach out to my office if I can be of assistance as you work on our shared goal to protect our government's cyber networks.

Sincerely,



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

cc:

Chairman Jason Chaffetz, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Ranking Member Elijah Cummings, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee