

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Comptroller General:

We are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a review of the impact that continuing resolutions (CRs) have on agency operations.

It has been more than ten years since GAO issued its last report on the impact of CRs on agencies (GAO-09-879). Since that time, the federal government has had CRs every year resulting in funding uncertainty and anecdotal evidence of agencies' inability to accomplish mission requirements and carry out crucial functions. Therefore, we believe it would be useful for GAO to update its 2009 CR report to examine the impact of CRs on agency operations.

We understand that GAO has a mandate in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to look at the effects of continuing resolutions on the readiness and planning of the Department of Defense (DOD). The study we are requesting would be of agencies on the non-DOD discretionary spending side.

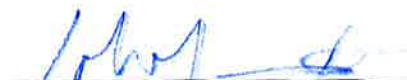
Examples of programs funded by non-defense discretionary appropriations that have seen their effectiveness damaged by CRs include: Community Development Block Grants, Housing Choice Vouchers, and the HOME Program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Job Corps program within the Department of Labor; and the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program within the Department of Energy. These programs should be among those that GAO explores as part of this engagement.

We appreciate your attention to this request. Please work with Joshua Smith on the Senate Budget Committee staff and Jennifer Wheelock on the House Budget Committee staff on the time frames and other issues related to your review in response to this request.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget



John Yarmuth
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget