

**RANKING MEMBER WILLIAM R. KEATING (D-MA) OPENING STATEMENT**

Committee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigation and Management

**Hearing: “*Eliminating Waste, Fraud, Abuse and Duplication in the Department of Homeland Security*”**

9:00 A.M., Thursday, March 8, 2012

Thank you, Chairman McCaul for holding this important hearing, which is a timely examination of ways to ensure that scarce homeland security funds are being utilized properly.

The current economic climate has people all across America tightening their belts and cutting back on spending.

The same is true of our Federal government.

Congress has the responsibility of safeguarding taxpayer funds by eliminating instances of duplication and wasteful spending.

Yet, streamlining operations is not one and the same with reducing the resources of Federal employees so drastically that they cannot perform their jobs effectively and provide needed government services.

I have said this time and again, both on and off the Committee, shortsighted plans that eliminate job-creating programs and compromise our safety for the sake of immediate savings are not the answer.

For this reason, I am pleased to see that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has taken a birds-eye view of federal government programs and provided us with a roadmap for actual savings prospects.

The report identifies 51 areas that require greater efforts at efficiency as well as suggestions for providing more effective government services.

It also identifies government duplication, overlap, and fragmentation to help Congress discover more cost savings and revenue enhancement opportunities.

Although the report contains a Government-wide assessment, it highlights several broad areas where duplication, overlap or fragmentation exist within the Department of Homeland Security.

Accordingly, this Subcommittee received testimony from DHS Under Secretary of Management, Rafael Borrás last week on the efforts the Department is making to integrate its management systems.

Pursuant to his testimony, the Department is making very positive strides in regard to having clear plans in place to reduce duplicative efforts in the management arena.

In fact, the Department’s Efficiency Review Initiative, which was highlighted by Vice President Biden as a model for all federal agencies, has resulted in more than \$1 billion in DHS cost avoidances, including \$180 million saved by consolidating duplicative software licensing agreements.

Moreover, the Department serves as one of the leading federal agencies in the Administration's Shared First Initiative, which requires federal agencies to eliminate duplicate IT systems.

Due to this program, there aren't any duplicative IT efforts at DHS, even in the face of at least \$1.2 Billion in duplicative IT investments at the Departments of Energy and Defense, according to GAO head, Comptroller General Gene Dodaro.

These are the good stories. And I am pleased to see that Secretary Napolitano has advanced internal measures aimed at eliminating waste, fraud and duplication.

Unfortunately, this does not change the fact that DHS is still made up of 22 legacy agencies and a number of its activities are still shared by other federal agencies.

It is within these instances where GAO identifies numerous instances of undefined roles and responsibilities and duplicative efforts that ultimately result in spending taxpayer money that could have been better utilized.

For example, when it comes to personnel background investigations, cybersecurity trainings, and the identification of fraudulent travel documents, the lines between multiple agencies are blurred.

Furthermore, despite its management strides, the Department has yet to fully address deficiencies in component operations that result in wasted funds.

The Department's Federal Protective Service (FPS) has received over \$230 million from federal agencies for risk assessments and security services.

Yet, these agencies have not found the FPS's services adequate or satisfactory, so they perform their own assessments, as well.

Mr. Chairman, I think that it is much more sound strategy to eliminate or streamline bureaucratic programs that haven't been working for years over preventing new programs and technologies with potential from taking effect due to cost concerns.