

**Chairman Steve Daines Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

**Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the Government Accountability Office
and the Congressional Budget Office**

April 25, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

Good afternoon. The subcommittee will come to order. I would like to welcome everyone to the first of our fiscal year 2019 budget hearings for the agencies under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Branch appropriations subcommittee.

Today we have with us the Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Dr. Keith Hall; and the head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Comptroller General Gene Dodaro.

I appreciate the willingness of the witnesses to appear before the subcommittee today and look forward to their testimony.

The total Congressional Budget Office request for FY 2019 is \$50.7 million, an increase of \$0.8 million above the FY 2018 enacted level.

This funding request supports the current full-time equivalent (FTE) level of 239, plus an additional ten FTE, eight of which would be devoted to the areas of transparency and responsiveness and another two FTE would be added in the area of healthcare analysis.

The total Government Accountability Office (GAO) request for FY 2019 is \$578.9 million, which is level with the FY 2018 enacted level.

Though level funding, this request supports an increase in FTE from 3,020 to 3,100, by shifting investments from one-time IT and infrastructure projects being completed in FY 2018, to personnel needs. This growth in FTE would continue progress toward GAO's multi-year plan to rebuild its staff capacity to an optimal level of 3,250 FTE.

I'd like to thank you both for taking the time last week to meet with me and discuss some of the issues facing your agencies. They were valuable conversations, and I hope to expand on some of the topics we discussed during today's hearing.

I also look forward to gaining a full understanding of your agencies' needs and priorities for the coming year to better serve the Congress and the Nation.

And now, I'd like to turn to my Ranking Member, Senator Murphy, for any opening remarks he may like to make.

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