

August 15, 2025

The Honorable Pete Sessions
United States House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume
United States House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: IIA Support for the U.S. Government Accountability Office

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Mfume:

On behalf of The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA), the international professional organization representing more than 265,000 internal auditors, I write to express **strong support for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)** in response to recent criticisms directed at the agency.

For more than a century, GAO has served as a pillar of good governance responsible for providing Congress with “timely information that is objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, nonideological, and balanced.”¹ Through comprehensive audits and evaluations, the dedicated professionals at GAO promote a more efficient federal government by identifying waste, enhancing performance, and safeguarding taxpayer dollars.

Given GAO’s essential role in equipping Congress with objective analysis to ensure government accountability, The IIA is increasingly concerned by recent attempts to politicize the agency through unfounded accusations.² While it is certainly appropriate for public officials to question or disagree with GAO, such comments misleadingly suggest that the agency has abdicated its core mission to pursue a political agenda. Unfortunately, specious allegations against public sector auditors are proliferating across North America. Officials frequently dismiss audit findings as “political” rather than engage constructively or implement difficult recommendations.

This changing environment risks undermining the ability of public sector auditors, such as GAO, to safeguard public resources. For example, on June 26, 2025, the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations approved its version of the [FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act](#)³ that, if enacted, would cut GAO’s budget by approximately 50%.⁴ Such a substantial reduction in appropriations will

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office. *Our Mission*. <https://www.gao.gov/about>

² “GOP Declares War on GAO.” Jennifer Scholtes, Jordain Carney, and Katherine Tully-McManus, Politico, May 27, 2025: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/27/gop-declares-war-on-gao-00369762>

³ U.S. House Committee on Appropriations. (June 26, 2025). *Committee Approves FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act* [Press Release]. <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/committee-approves-fy26-legislative-branch-appropriations-act>

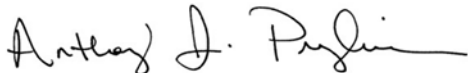
⁴ “GAO faces nearly 50% budget cut, less oversight of withheld funds in budget plan.” Jory Heckman, *Federal News Network*, June 23, 2025: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2025/06/gao-faces-nearly-50-budget-cut-less-oversight-of-withheld-funds-in-budget-plan/>

prevent Congress from obtaining objective and timely information regarding pertinent government programs. Moreover, it will place taxpayer resources at risk of waste, fraud, and abuse.

As leaders of the U.S. House subcommittee with legislative jurisdiction over GAO, The IIA urges you to reject political expediency and stand in strong support of GAO. Specifically, we encourage you to utilize your committee leadership positions to **oppose efforts to drastically cut funding for GAO in FY 2026.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Downing, IIA Senior Director for North American Advocacy, at Michael.Downing@TheIIA.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony J. Pugliese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Pugliese" clearly legible.

Anthony J. Pugliese, CIA, CPA, CGMA, CITP
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Institute of Internal Auditors

cc: Members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Government Operations