



April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Quigley, Chairman Van Hollen, Ranking Member Womack, and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

It has never been more important to advance federal information technology by providing sustained investment. We write to support the continuation of efforts necessary to improve agencies' efficiency and ability to fulfill their missions and the effectiveness with which the federal

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Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Quigley, Chairman Van Hollen,
Ranking Member Womack, and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith

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government serves Americans, while also protecting federal systems and sensitive data through modernized technology.

Recent efforts to fund federal IT modernization are crucial to realizing a stronger, more capable and resilient federal government. Agencies are only now just beginning to feel the impact of the unprecedented \$2 billion for federal technology appropriated by the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2), of which \$1 billion was allocated to the Technology Modernization Fund (TMF). This funding is invaluable to continuing to help improve the pace at which agencies can replace inefficient legacy systems, improve efficiency, enhance cyber security, and deliver better services.

Yet these prior investments represent more of a strong down payment than a capstone of efforts to address the very considerable technology modernization backlog faced throughout the federal government. Last spring, the TMF received over 130 proposals from more than 40 agencies, totaling approximately \$2.5 billion dollars in high-need projects, for the \$1 billion appropriated in 2021. There is clearly a great need that can only be met with additional resources and strategic support.

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations, we believe it is necessary for appropriately robust investment in technology to be sustained throughout the federal government. Following a year in which the supplemental appropriations of the American Rescue Plan supplanted regular FY 2022 funding for the TMF, we respectfully request that you sustain support for federal IT transformation and investments in modern commercial solutions by meeting or exceeding the full requested amount —\$300 million—for the TMF in the President's Budget in FY 2023 appropriations. Additionally, since the TMF represents just one element from which federal IT transformation is funded, we also ask that appropriations be structured to help ensure agencies can make progress on IT modernization needs through additional flexibility.

Funding is also needed to meet the government's cybersecurity needs and goals. OMB Memorandum M-22-09, which follows the Executive Order on "Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity" (EO 14028), directs all federal agencies to mature their zero trust capabilities. The memorandum encourages agencies to either reprioritize funds internally or seek funding from alternative sources, such as the TMF. Additional funding should be made available for agencies that are just getting started on their zero trust journeys because these cybersecurity efforts are essential to maintaining a strong federal network defense posture for years to come.

It has been five years since the Executive Branch released a strategy around IT modernization. Within the White House and individual agencies, there exist multiple distinct emphases on strategically important efforts and approaches but they are not harmonized to meet broader objectives. Given the pace of technological advancement, a new, more systematic and outcome-focused whole-of-government strategy for IT modernization that drives digital transformation and improved cybersecurity resilience would help to drive modernization throughout government. A new strategy should stress performance improvements and measure progress,

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prioritize value to the taxpayer, transform and simplify user experience with government systems and services, improve cybersecurity performance, and be supported by enhanced partnerships, assessment, workforce training, and adoption of best in class technology.

Responsibility for developing and implementing an improved and broadly-impactful IT modernization strategy is borne by leaders in the executive branch. However, leadership and engagement from Congress—in addition to making crucial investments—is also important. Beyond providing predictable, sustained, and appropriately robust investment, congressional partnership can play an important role in advancing modernization efforts by pairing funds with accountability, strong oversight of planning and implementation, and ensuring transparency and demonstrated success.

Sustainable, strategic, and long-term investment in and leadership on modernizing federal IT is vital and our industries stand ready to work with and support efforts to help transform the federal government's technology posture. Thank you for your attention to this critically important priority.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Digital Innovation (ADI)
The Center for Procurement Advocacy (CPA)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)
The Professional Services Council (PSC)
Security Industry Association (SIA)
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
TechNet