

STATEMENT OF
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Hearing Before the
Committee on House Administration
“Inspector General’s Report on Shared Employees”
May 21, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I appreciate this opportunity to testify this morning on the issues associated with and recommendations in the Inspector General’s report on “Shared Employees.”

I want to begin by complimenting the Committee for requesting the Inspector General to undertake this report. We have known for some time that the growing use of shared employees could pose management risks and directing the IG to undertake the study was the right first step to addressing those possible risks.

In addition, I want to compliment the Inspector General and his team for the quality of the report they have prepared. Their review was thorough and professional in every regard and it provides all of us the information we need to develop and implement the necessary policies, procedures and management controls to address these problems.

My message to you this morning is very simple. I fully support all the recommendations proposed by the Inspector General. My office is fully prepared to implement these recommendations should the Committee so direct. The recommendations in the report provide a solid foundation for us to base corrective actions in both the short and long term.

Given the problems described in the Inspector General’s report, the recommendation for *Official Guidelines for Shared Employees* is an excellent suggestion and we’re prepared to work with the Committee and the Inspector General to complete this document expeditiously.

The Inspector General recommends we explore options for augmenting House-provided IT and financial services to Members and Committees. I would point out the House budget request includes \$9 million to provide funding for the new Members of the 111th Congress. We are prepared to develop the appropriate budget request to provide additional services for existing Members should the Committee desire.

The report’s recommendation that there be a prohibition against employees serving as both House employees and contractors is both reasonable and appropriate. We do not see any problem with implementing the recommendations to provide Members and Committees with quarterly reports identifying the full scope of employment of all shared employees.

Finally, I would like to highlight the report's recommendation that the New Member Orientation stress the risks to Members associated with using shared employees without strengthened controls. Since you are in the planning stages for these orientations, this is an appropriate time to develop the information and approaches for implementing this recommendation.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify this morning; I would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.