

Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING
Government Accountability Office
Government Printing Office
Congressional Budget Office
March 15, 2012

Chairman Nelson's Opening Statement

The subcommittee will come to order.

Good afternoon everyone and welcome.

We meet this afternoon to take testimony on the Fiscal Year 2013 budget requests for the Government Accountability Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office.

I want to welcome our witnesses today:

Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General;

Davita Vance-Cooks, (Acting) Public Printer; and

Doug Elmendorf, Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

I want to also welcome my ranking member Senator Hoeven.

This is our second hearing of the year on the FY 13 budget requests for the agencies of the Legislative Branch. I would like to start off by commending our witnesses today – particularly the GPO who submitted a budget request reflecting a freeze at the FY12 enacted level – for submitting budget requests that reflect the tight fiscal constraints under which the

Federal government must continue to operate. Unfortunately, given the budgetary battles ahead of us, any growth in budgets very well may be too much growth. However, we should certainly hear from our witnesses as to what their needs for increased funding are for FY 13 so we are fully informed when tough funding decisions are made later this year. And with that upbeat message, we look forward to hearing from each of you this afternoon and to discussing your budget requests.

Mr. Dodaro, this year GAO is requesting a total of \$526.2 million in appropriated funding – an increase of \$15 million, or 2.9%, above the FY 12 enacted level. This increased funding level would support an additional 64 FTEs above the current level of 2,982. I look forward to hearing the specifics of this request – specifically in light of the requested increase in FTEs immediately following participation in the Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment (VSIP) program. Particularly given that the Library of Congress and the GPO also participated in the VSIP program, but are not asking for FTE increases in FY 13.

Ms. Vance-Cooks, this is your first time appearing before this subcommittee, and you have some very big shoes to fill since the departure of Mr. Boardman. He served the GPO with distinction, particularly given the tight fiscal constraints. The GPO continues to serve its clients with

efficiency and excellence no matter how few resources we throw your way. The GPO has set the standard that others should follow when it comes to finding savings and implementing cost cutting initiatives, and we hope you will continue to lead by example as we work towards funding FY 13. Congratulations on your appointment and welcome.

GPO is requesting a total of \$126.25 million, the same level of funding as provided in FY 12. I also understand that in FY 13, the GPO has to undertake printing a new edition of the United States Code in addition to all of the other regularly scheduled printing activities. Yet, you are not asking for increased funding to pay for this additional requirement.

Dr. Elmendorf, it's good to see you again. CBO is requesting \$44.6 million in FY 13, an increase of roughly \$850,000 or 1.9% over the current year. I look forward to discussing the particulars of your budget in just a few minutes.

I'd like to now turn to my Ranking Member, Senator Hoeven for his opening remarks.

Now, I'd like to call on Mr. Dodaro for his opening statement, followed by Ms. Vance-Cooks and then Dr. Elmendorf. I'd appreciate it if you'd all keep your opening statements brief – around 5 minutes – and submit the rest of your testimony for the record. Please proceed.