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Washington, DC 20548

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

June 23, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Priority Open Recommendations: Department of the Treasury

Dear Secretary Bessent:

The purpose of this letter is to call your personal attention to three areas where open recommendations to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) should be given high priority.

In January 2026, we reported that, on a government-wide basis, 77 percent of our recommendations made 5 years ago were implemented.¹ Treasury's recommendation implementation rate was also 77 percent. As of June 2026, Treasury has 125 open recommendations, including 28 priority recommendations.² Since our August 2025 letter, Treasury implemented four priority recommendations.³ I appreciate Treasury's continued commitment to addressing our recommendations, which will better position the department to more effectively and efficiently achieve its mission.

We are highlighting the following areas that warrant your timely and focused attention:

- **Reducing fraud and improper payments.** To safeguard federal funds, it is critical to reduce fraud and improper payments. However, the federal government is unable to determine the full extent to which fraud occurs. Treasury needs to work with the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate methods to expand government-wide fraud estimation, as we [recommended](#). Further, Treasury needs to [strengthen](#) its post-payment controls over COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance funds to more effectively recover overpayments made by grantees. Until Treasury strengthens its controls, its ability to recover overpayments will be delayed or impossible.

¹GAO, *Performance and Accountability Report, Fiscal Year 2025*, [GAO-26-900644](#) (Washington, D.C.: Jan. 29, 2026).

²GAO considers a recommendation to be a priority if when implemented, it may significantly improve government operations, for example, by realizing large dollar savings; eliminating mismanagement, fraud, and abuse; or making progress toward addressing a high-risk or duplication issue.

³GAO, *Priority Open Recommendations: Department of the Treasury*, [GAO-25-108067](#) (Washington, D.C.: Aug. 12, 2025). In this letter, we identified 32 priority recommendations.

- **Ensuring cybersecurity and information privacy.** The financial services sector's reliance on technology systems makes it a target for cyber-based attacks on critical infrastructure. The current plan providing direction for sector wide cybersecurity-related activities does not identify ways to measure progress and is out of date. We [recommended](#) that Treasury update the financial services sector-specific plan with metrics for measuring the progress of risk mitigation efforts in meeting sector goals and requirements. Fully implementing this recommendation will improve the ability of Treasury and the financial services sector to address cyber-related risks.
- **Improving federal financial management.** Treasury, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, is responsible for preparing the consolidated financial statements of the U.S. government. We have reported long-standing material weaknesses in internal control related to the processes used to prepare the statements, which prevents Congress and the administration from having assurance that the financial information is complete and reliable. We have [recommended](#) Treasury improve its internal controls over these processes, including for preparing the [Schedules of the General Fund](#). Implementing these recommendations would provide the federal government with more reliable, useful, and timely financial information to operate effectively and efficiently.

One of these areas—[Ensuring Cybersecurity of the Nation](#)—is also included on GAO's [High Risk List](#).⁴ Another high risk area, [Modernizing the U.S. Financial Regulatory System](#), has direct implications for Treasury and its operations. We also identified actions Treasury should take to reduce fragmentation, overlap, and duplication. This includes continued collaboration with partner agencies to avoid duplicate funding and provide [broadband access](#) to areas with the greatest need, which could save ten million dollars or more. More information on our [Duplication and Cost Savings](#) work can be found on the GAO website.

Lastly, we are sending separate letters to the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, highlighting specific issues and numerous priority recommendations that fall within their purview.

A comprehensive list of open recommendations, including priority recommendations, and information about their status can be found on the GAO website at [Recommendations Database | U.S. GAO](#). Copies of this letter are being sent to the appropriate congressional committees.⁵ This letter will also be available at [Priority Recommendations | U.S. GAO](#).

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss how to address our open recommendations, as we pursue the shared goal of working to increase efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and spending. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Cardell Johnson, Managing Director, Strategic Issues Team at JohnsonCD1@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of

⁴This list identifies government operations with greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. GAO, *High-Risk Series: Heightened Attention Could Save Billions More and Improve Government Efficiency and Effectiveness*, [GAO-25-107743](#) (Washington, D.C.: Feb. 25, 2025).

⁵We also help Congress identify congressional oversight actions that can help agencies implement priority recommendations, such as incorporating them into legislation. James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 7211(a)(2), 136 Stat. 2395, 3668 (2022) (codified at 31 U.S.C. § 719 note). Congress can also use its budget, appropriations, and oversight processes to incentivize executive branch agencies to act on our recommendations and monitor their progress. For example, Congress can hold hearings focused on agencies' progress in implementing priority recommendations, withhold funds when appropriate, or take other actions to provide incentives for agencies to act.

Congressional Relations and Media Relations may be found on the last page of this letter.
Thank you for your personal attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

cc: John York, Assistant Secretary for Management, Treasury
Chris Pilkerton, Assistant Secretary for Investment Security, Treasury
Luke Pettit, Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, Treasury
Ken Kies, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Treasury
Gary Grippo, Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Treasury
Joseph Gioeli, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Treasury
The Honorable Jonathan V. Gould, Comptroller of the Currency, Office of the
Comptroller of the Currency
Sam Corcos, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Systems and Chief Information
Officer, Treasury

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