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Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

June 16, 2026

Accessible Version

The Honorable Michael Kratsios
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20504

Priority Open Recommendations: Office of Science and Technology Policy

Dear Director Kratsios:

The purpose of this letter is to call your personal attention to two areas where open recommendations to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) 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 OSTP's recommendation implementation rate was 67 percent. As of June 2026, OSTP has 10 open recommendations, including four priority recommendations.² Since our June 2025 letter, OSTP implemented three priority recommendations.³ Fully implementing the four open priority recommendations could significantly improve OSTP efforts to foster interagency coordination on science and technology issues.

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

- **Planning and tracking progress toward national science and technology goals.** OSTP provides leadership to agencies in working together to address a variety of national science and technology goals. Our work has highlighted several areas in which OSTP could better marshal interagency efforts to plan for, or track progress toward, national goals. For example, we found that specific metrics or information to be collected were not included in a national strategic plan for advanced manufacturing. As of May 2026, OSTP is leading

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: Office of Science and Technology Policy*, [GAO-25-108166](#) (Washington, D.C.: June 10, 2025). In this letter, we identified six priority recommendations. Since then, in addition to the three that were implemented, we added one new priority recommendation.

development of a new strategic plan for advanced manufacturing.⁴ Implementing our priority [recommendation](#) to ensure that the strategic plan identifies specific, measurable information that OSTP will collect from agencies would help it assess progress toward the plan's goals and objectives. Similarly, we found that a national quantum computing strategy did not fully address certain characteristics intended to help ensure accountability and more effective results. Implementing our priority [recommendation](#) to incorporate these characteristics by, for example, including performance measures and agencies' roles and responsibilities, could help OSTP gauge progress on quantum computing and improve interagency planning and coordination.⁵

- **Addressing research security risks.** Addressing risks to the security of U.S. research posed by foreign entities of concern has increasingly become a priority for federal agencies. In January 2022, OSTP issued guidance for addressing foreign risks to research security. However, we found that the guidance did not address the issue of foreign ownership, control, or influence. Agency officials reported challenges in handling this issue, including a lack of information sharing across agencies. Because OSTP leads federal interagency coordination on science and technology policies, implementing our priority [recommendation](#) to facilitate information sharing on identifying foreign ownership, control, or influence across agencies would help address this challenge.

Implementing our [recommendation](#) to ensure the national quantum computing strategy incorporates the desired characteristics of a national strategy would help address a government-wide area on GAO's [High Risk List—ensuring the cybersecurity of the nation](#).⁶ Additionally, implementing our [recommendation](#) to facilitate information sharing across agencies on identifying foreign ownership, control, or influence would help OSTP better manage fragmentation of federal efforts to address research security risks. More information on our [Duplication and Cost Savings](#) work can be found on the GAO website.

A comprehensive list of open recommendations, including new 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.⁷ This letter will also be available at [Priority Recommendations | U.S. GAO](#).

⁴The national strategic plan for advanced manufacturing is to be updated every 4 years as required by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, as amended. 42 U.S.C. § 6622(c)(4).

⁵In another report, we found that OSTP had not updated a 2019 critical minerals strategy to address new statutory requirements and guide interagency efforts on recovery and substitution of critical minerals. Implementing our priority [recommendation](#) to update the 2019 strategy to address statutory requirements, among other things, would enhance efforts to tackle crosscutting challenges that constrain critical minerals recovery and substitution.

⁶This 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.: February 25, 2025).

⁷We 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.

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 John Neumann, Managing Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics at neumannj@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of 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