



United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

GAO's Congressional Protocols Addendum 1

November 1, 2002

Since January 2000, the General Accounting Office has operated under a set of protocols governing GAO's work for the Congress. The protocols are intended to provide clearly defined and transparent policies and practices relating to GAO's work. We developed these protocols in consultation with Members of Congress and their staffs, tested them during a pilot implementation phase from January 2000 to September 2000, refined them on the basis of feedback from the pilot, and fully implemented them in November 2000.

We have encouraged Members of Congress to contact us with comments or questions and we thank them for their feedback. Based on such feedback and our desire to maintain a fair and balanced approach to our work, we have decided to modify our protocols in two areas immediately: (1) work involving state and local activities and (2) comments on proposed legislation. While the changes are important, they affect only small sections of the existing document; therefore, we are issuing the following addendum to the November 2000 version of GAO's Congressional Protocols ([GAO-01-145G](#)).

State and Local Activities: GAO does not conduct studies, reviews, evaluations or audits of state or local programs or activities that are solely within the purview of states or localities where there is no connection to federal matters. GAO does review certain state and local activities and programs that are (1) carried out in furtherance of federal law, such as environmental programs or insurance regulation, or (2) funded by federal programs, such as Medicaid, transportation, or education programs. In addition, to assist the Congress in developing federal legislation, reexamining the federal role or gauging federal performance, GAO sometimes reviews the practices of the states to ascertain "best practices" or lessons learned in dealing with particular issues. Further, GAO partners with state and local auditors to examine national issues that cross geopolitical boundaries (e.g., transportation, homeland security, Medicaid).

When GAO receives a request from a Member of Congress that focuses on a major activity or program that is solely or largely centered in a specific geographical area that is represented by members beyond those requesting the work, GAO may advise the Members of Congress representing that geographic area of the timing, scope, and methodology of the work. After advising the requester, GAO also reserves the right to brief such members before the final report is publicly released on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

On July 16, 2004, GAO issued [GAO-04-310G](#):
GAO's Congressional Protocols, which supercedes this
document and [GAO-01-145G](#).

GAO-03-198G