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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

January 19, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Improving Federal Contract Auditing." The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine how federal agencies use contract audits to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in government contracts. In particular, the hearing will review the findings of the Subcommittee's ongoing investigation of the type and number of contract audits at federal agencies. The hearing will also examine the role played by the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) in performing contract audits for agencies other than the Defense Department.

Your testimony should address the amount spent through contracts and the frequency and cost of contract audits performed at the Department of Education. You should also discuss the challenges departments and agencies face when conducting contract audits. In addition, you should be prepared to discuss the need for alternative approaches to strengthen contract auditing, including the potential advantages and disadvantages of creating a new Federal Contract Audit Agency.

We request that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. **Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by no later than 2:30 P.M. on Friday, January 28, 2011.** Please send an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

We look forward to your participation. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or William Wright with Senator Brown's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-2186 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Scott Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight