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July 16, 2003

Cosponsor the Government Accountability and Streamlining Act

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge you to join me in cosponsoring the "Government Accountability and Streamlining Act of 2003," to stem the ever growing problem of the duplication of programs in government.

The National Commission on the Public Service earlier this year released its report titled "Urgent Business for America: Revitalizing the Federal Government for the 21st Century," which provides several examples of waste and duplication in government, including the following:

- As many as 12 different agencies are responsible for administering more than 35 food safety laws;
- 541 clean air, water, and waste programs are managed in 29 agencies;
- Seven different federal agencies administer 40 different programs aimed primarily at job training;
- Eight different federal agencies operate 50 different programs to aid the homeless;
- Nine agencies operate 27 teen pregnancy programs; and
- Ninety early childhood programs are scattered among 11 federal agencies.

Apart from sweeping government reorganization, I believe that there are commonsense steps that Congress can take to address this problem. The Government Accountability and Streamlining Act would require that any legislation reported by a Congressional Committee or Subcommittee be reviewed by GAO to determine if new government programs would be created by the legislation. If so, GAO would ascertain whether the new programs would be redundant with functions performed in an existing government agency and/or could be more efficiently performed by an existing agency.

The GAO determination would be made a part of the committee report, similar to the Congressional Budget Office scoring of legislation, so that members of Congress would have this information before a final vote.

I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this legislation. Please contact Chris Barkley at 225-5147 if you have questions or would like to cosponsor.

Sincerely,

/s Jo Ann Davis
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Civil Service
and Agency Organization