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The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: GAO Report and Need to Revise NDAA Sec. 815, Earned Value Management

Dear Chairman Duckworth:

Today's GAO report on defense software acquisitions recommends the use of outcome-based metrics to track whether software development is achieving desired outcomes, including capability delivered. My previous letters to you discussed the systemic absence of outcome-based metrics in Earned Value Management Systems (EVMS). Please act on my recommendation (July 17 letter) to amend the NDAA for FY 2024, Section 815.

The GAO report is "DEFENSE SOFTWARE ACQUISITIONS Changes to Requirements, Oversight, and Tools Needed for Weapon Programs," GAO-23-105867, July 2023. GAO found that existing policies and guidance do not support DOD oversight of non-software pathway weapon programs using Agile. Without the use of outcome-based metrics and continually assessing the value of what was delivered against user needs, a program using Agile software development might deliver capabilities and features that are not essential to the customer and that could contribute to schedule and cost overruns.

Your action will be a restart of over-arching acquisition reforms that I had initiated with Henry Waxman, Ike Skelton, and John McCain and meet unmet WSARA commitments.

Respectfully,



Paul J. Solomon

CC:

William LaPlante, USD for Acquisition and Sustainment
Heidi Shyu, (USD(R&E))
Andrew Hunter, AF Asst. Sec. for AT&L
Adam Smith, Chair HASC
Susan Collins, Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
Shelby Oakley, GAO
Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News