

# H.R. 4435—FY15 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

## CHAIRMAN'S MARK

### Comptroller General Assessment of Department of Defense Processes for the Acquisition of Services

To complement the committee's effort to improve the processes by which the Department of Defense acquires weapon systems, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to undertake a body of work to identify further opportunities to improve the Department's processes to acquire contracted services.

Over the last decade, Congress has provided new tools and capabilities intended to improve the Department's processes and oversight of services acquisitions. These include requiring the establishment of a management structure and review process for high-dollar services; designation of senior managers responsible for services contract approval and oversight within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the military departments; and the mandating of an annual inventory of contracted services to assist in workforce planning and budgeting.

The committee notes that the Department has undertaken several actions to improve its approach to acquiring services, most recently in the Department's Better Buying Power initiatives. Nevertheless, in a series of reports issued over the past year, the Comptroller General found that the Department still did not know the current status of services acquisitions in terms of the volume or type of services being acquired, lacked reliable data on the projected spending for services, had not fully embraced total workforce management approaches, and had not fully leveraged its buying power through strategic sourcing. With services acquisition accounting for more than half of the Department's contracting efforts, the committee believes that a holistic assessment of the myriad processes that play a role in acquiring services is needed if the Department is to fundamentally improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General to continue monitoring the Department's efforts in this area and to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the processes and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of services to identify opportunities to improve these processes and procedures. An initial report on the assessment should be provided to the congressional defense committees not later than March 1, 2016, with follow-up efforts subsequently briefed to the committees as phases of the assessment are completed. At a minimum, the assessment should examine:

- (1) The requirements generation, budgeting, and contracting processes associated with the acquisition of services;
- (2) How such processes interface with the Department's strategic human capital planning processes;
- (3) The Department's efforts to identify and, as appropriate, enhance the skills and capabilities needed by the workforce to acquire and oversee contracted services;
- (4) The extent to which the Department is acquiring contracted services using strategic sourcing; and
- (5) The extent to which the Department's annual budget request and future budget projections for contracted services are based on current, accurate, and reliable data.