

Congresswoman Candice S. Miller

Opening Statement

Committee on Government Reform

Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The issue of factual data analysis as a tool to strengthen national security is one of the most significant issues facing our society today. With the implementation of the E-Government Act of 2002 and the growing importance of information technology in the world, establishing investigative techniques such as factual data analysis are vital if our nation is to implement our war on terror successfully.

As we all know, terrorists have an uncanny ability to adapt to our methods of prevention. In my view, we need to focus all of our resources to ensure that we are always at least one step ahead of the nefarious creatures.

Federal officials currently have at their disposal the resources and knowledge to implement systems that will assist in this process. These officials currently occupy the vanguard of our defenses, and need not be unnecessarily hampered by the bureaucracy in their efforts.

However, the American people must have confidence that the federal government is using this new source of information in an ethical, proper and effective way. It is essential that a proper balance be made between the operations of the government as it prosecutes the war on terror and the disclosure of those operations to citizens it was set up to protect. For this reason, it is the responsibility of this subcommittee to ensure that factual data analysis as a tool is not abused.

For example, I am encouraged that the Total Information Awareness project (TIA) being conducted by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has been relatively

transparent. While only in its beginning phases, this program provides a hope that we can analyze the patterns of the terrorists to anticipate their next move. Some have expressed concern about programs such as these, but the mere fact that Mr. McCraw, Admiral Loy, and Dr. Tether have agreed to testify today, shows that the federal government is concerned about the perception Congress and the public has of data analysis.

I look forward to working with the Chairman and members of the subcommittee and full committee to ensure that this program receives proper congressional oversight.