

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, CHAIRMAN



Oversight Hearing:
Financial Management at the Department of Health and Human Services
September 30, 2004

OPENING STATEMENT OF TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

This hearing continues the Subcommittee's oversight of Federal financial management and focuses on one of the most important building blocks for success – financial system implementation.

The clear goal of management reforms passed over the past two decades is timely, accurate, useful financial data that can be used to manage and make decisions. Without this information, the federal government cannot analyze costs and benefits or gather an accurate assessment of program performance. In our oversight we have seen time and again the importance of financial system implementation and how Federal agencies must construct the proper framework to achieve the goal of sound management.

As part of our oversight of these system implementations, we requested that the Government Accountability Office review the multiyear effort underway at the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Unified Financial Management System. The UFMS implementation is critical to the government's delivery of vital services to millions of citizens, and we look forward to discussing both the progress that has been made and the concerns that have been raised.

We are honored to have Jeff Steinhoff, Managing Director of Financial Management and Assurance at the Government Accountability Office. He will be joined by Keith Rhodes, Chief Technologist at the GAO Center for Technology and Engineering. We also have Kerry Weems, Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget, Information and Finance at the Department of Health and Human Services before the Subcommittee again.