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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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June 30, 2008

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

Today the Government Accountability Office issued a report entitled "Electronic Payments: Many Programs Electronically Disburse Federal Benefits, and More Outreach Could Increase Use." I write to request the Committee hold a hearing as soon as possible to bring attention to the findings of this report, evaluate GAO's recommendations, and determine what actions should be taken by Congress and the Administration concerning their findings.

Electronic benefit transfer (EBT) is an extremely useful tool for the federal government. It reduces costs and increases the convenience, timeliness, and security of payment delivery. In the report the GAO notes that not all programs and agencies utilize EBT, that various options exist for agencies to increase the use of EBT, and "recommends that Treasury consider conducting outreach to federal agencies regularly, particularly those that may not use or fully use electronic payments." This hearing could explore the benefits of EBT historically, the barriers or disadvantages associated with further expansion, and the potential options and strategies to increase program utilization.

I hope this hearing serves to further advance what has proven to be an effective tool for the federal government, and a secure, convenient benefit for the American public. As I am sure you would agree, such a hearing would continue the Committee's long tradition of promoting good governance and of exploring opportunities to increase government efficiency while saving taxpayers money.

Please contact my staff at (202) 225-5074 if you have any questions or to coordinate what I hope will be an important hearing.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis  
Ranking Member