

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Michael Rigas
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415

The Honorable Russell Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Rigas and Acting Director Vought:

As the federal government continues to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, we request that you require departments and agencies to post their continuity of operation (COOP) plans online in an accessible format and central location, unless there are legitimate intelligence or national security reasons not to do so. Making these plans transparent and readily available is key to ensuring that our constituents understand what services are continuing in the midst of the uncertainty and disruption caused by COVID-19. It is also important for federal employees and contractors to understand and properly implement the required mitigation measures and for policymakers to ensure compliance with these measures.

Sharing this information publicly would be consistent with how the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has posted department and agency contingency plans for lapses in federal appropriations. Such transparency is critical to give citizens confidence in the government response during this difficult time and assure federal employees and contractors that the government is prioritizing their health and well-being.

Maintaining a healthy federal workforce with confidence in the government's commitment to their welfare is of the utmost importance to us. Thank you in advance for your prompt response and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/s/Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

/s/Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/Brian Schatz
United States Senator

/s/Gary C. Peters
United States Senator