



# Senators Want to Tighten Up Inherently Governmental Definition

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More than a dozen Democratic Senators are asking for specific changes to the definition of inherently governmental.

In a letter to Office of Management and Budget director Peter Orszag, the senators make four suggestions on what the new definition should include and ask the administration to take two other steps to ensure the definition has "maximum impact."

"This definition must prevent functions like the evaluation of contractors, preparation of budgets, development of policies and interpretation of regulations from being privatized," the Senators write.

OMB plans on issuing a draft policy letter in the Federal Register by March 31 that would redefine work that must be done by federal employees as well as functions that are closely associated with inherently governmental and those considered critical.

The Senators ask for OMB to include in the new definition:

- An expansion of the definition to cover all sensitive functions to managers won't need designations such as "core," "critical" and "mission-essential" to shield jobs they know are best performed by federal workers.
- A requirement for critical functions or those closely associated with inherently government should always be performed by federal employees.
- A mandate agencies have final decision making authority and that contractor recommendations are not treated as if they are final.
- A broader review of agency inherently government inventories to review all contracts to see if they include functions that fall under the new definition of inherently governmental, and then in-source them where appropriate.

The Senators also want OMB to add the new definition the Federal Acquisition Regulations with deadlines to bring back to the government jobs that were outsourced that shouldn't have been, and assign a senior official to ensure compliance.

Finally, the Senators ask OMB to clarify that "commercial federal employee functions should not be targeted for outsourcing..."

An e-mail asking OMB for comment on the letter was not immediately returned.

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