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Congress of the United States

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 205 10-8025

October 18, 1988

The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci  
U.S. Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

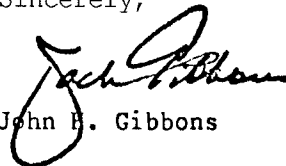
I am pleased to bring to your personal attention OTA's Background Paper on Electronic Delivery of Public Assistance Benefits: Technology Alternatives and Policy Implications. This paper was prepared at the request of Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

This Background Paper discusses the technological options available for use in an electronic system to deliver public assistance benefits, the privacy and security implications of such a system, and the programmatic effects of changing to an electronic delivery system. The paper built on research conducted for two earlier OTA studies, Federal Government Information Technology: Electronic Records and Individual Privacy (June 1986) and Defending Secrets, Sharing Data: New Locks and Keys for Electronic Information (October 1987). Preparation of the paper involved extensive assistance from and review by experts and other interested parties (Appendix A).

Additional copies of the Background Paper can be obtained by calling the OTA Publications Office at (202) 224-8996.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this paper. Please call me or the authors, Priscilla Regan and Joan Winston, at (202) 228-6760.

Sincerely,

  
John H. Gibbons

Enclosure

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