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*Senator Mark Warner and Paul A. Volcker address*

*NYU's Paul C. Light's*

*Federal Government Reform Report:*

**CREATING HIGH PERFORMANCE GOVERNMENT:**

**A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY**

Washington DC, June 21, 2011 -- Senator Mark Warner, Paul Volcker, and NYU Professor Paul C. Light announced today the recommendations of a blueprint for comprehensive reform of the federal bureaucracy.

Professor Light's Report, "**Creating High Performance Government: A Once-In-A-Generation Opportunity**," provides an overview of the accountability, efficiency, and productivity challenges facing Congress and the president as they consider a broad "overhaul" of the federal bureaucracy, and offers possible reforms that might improve performance as part of a package of comprehensive action, as well as a discussion of one method for bipartisan legislative implementation. The report also provides estimates of the potential savings involved in such a package with the caveat that better performance also involves investment in the basic resources needed for improvement.

Confidence in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to national and international, economic and political problems continues to dwindle. Some of these complaints are a clear reaction to political ideology, deepening polarization, and the recent budget battles, but they all reflect a core of reality.

Senator Warner commented on the plan.

"While we've spent considerable time developing a responsible, long-term plan to bring government spending and revenues into balance, the third leg of the stool is a more thoughtful and serious discussion about cutting costs by improving the way our government works. We must reform the operations of our government, removing unnecessary management layers and reducing overlap and duplication. This report provides thoughtful recommendations that we should put to work to make government work better."

“As Chairman of the Budget Committee’s Task Force on Government Performance, I’ve been working to improve efficiency and effectiveness across the government. It’s not easy and it certainly doesn't generate headlines, but we must break-down the bureaucratic silos we have built-up over time and work to create a government that's better prepared to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.”

In the past, Paul A. Volcker has argued, “...If major financial, health and education overhauls are indeed sorely needed to improve the quality of life of Americans, so too is a federal service reform that will equip the federal government with the tools that are needed to successfully implement reforms and carry out existing missions....Americans deserve no less.”

NYU’s Paul C. Light notes that this report is the product of year and half of research and analysis.

“The problem with the federal government reform is not too many ideas, but rather the lack of comprehensive package. The current debt debate provides a once in a generation opportunity to achieve the kind of sweeping overhaul that saves significant amounts of money and improves overall performance....Every president since Franklin Roosevelt has entered office promising government reform, but none has quite succeeded. Instead, today’s federal bureaucracy remains anchored in organizational strategies and structures invented in the 1930s and rarely updated since.”

The report was written by Paul C. Light, professor and founding director of the Global Center on Public Service at the Robert F. Wagner School of Government, New York University. The report was funded with support from the Truman Foundation and the Robertson Foundation for Government

The full report, including recommendations and a summary of past recommendations by good-government groups is available at <http://wagner.nyu.edu/governmentreform/>