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Data Transparency Coalition Commends Unanimous Oversight Committee Passage of the DATA Act

Coalition Says that by Opening Federal Spending, DATA Act would Enable Anti-Fraud Analytics, Create Tech Business Opportunities, and Ensure Accountability for Taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 22, 2013) – [The Data Transparency Coalition](http://datacoalition.org), the only trade association uniting the tech industry in support of federal data reform, today celebrated the unanimous passage by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the bipartisan [Digital Accountability and Transparency Act](#) (DATA Act). The DATA Act will establish government-wide data standards for the U.S. government's spending information and publish all internal expenditures and awards, in complete detail, on the USASpending.gov portal. The new versions of the bill, first introduced in 2011, were simultaneously introduced yesterday in both chambers by Rep. Issa and Sen. Warner and cosponsored by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), respectively.

"The DATA Act is a necessary step to bring accountability and transparency to federal spending and to rectify the annual misreporting of trillions of dollars," said Hudson Hollister, executive director of the Data Transparency Coalition. "We applaud the Oversight Committee for recognizing that open data will transform our federal government's ability to fight waste and fraud, make government more efficient, and, ultimately, generate new opportunities for the tech sector in the process."

"The changes the Committee has made today in its mark-up will help the government move more swiftly toward the full consolidation of reporting by federal grantees and contractors. We look forward to working with the House and Senate towards full passage of this monumental legislation."

These Congressional actions come less than two weeks after President Obama signed an executive order and official administration policy on open data. The President's [Open Data Policy](#) sets forth seven principles for non-restricted federal information. By requiring government-wide data standards and full publication, the DATA Act would implement the Open Data Policy's seven principles within the federal spending domain. The Data Transparency Coalition has been the foremost industry voice in support of the DATA Act and other open-data proposals.

About the Data Transparency Coalition

The Data Transparency Coalition is the only trade association that advocates for data reform in the U.S. government. The Coalition brings together technology companies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support policies that require federal agencies to publish their data online, using standardized, machine-readable, nonproprietary data standards. The coalition is steered by a board of advisors. Members include sector leaders such as Teradata Corporation, RR Donnelley, and WebFilings and smaller start-ups such as Level One Technologies, BrightScope, and StockSmart. For more information, visit <http://datacoalition.org/>.

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