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Data Transparency Coalition Applauds Simultaneous Introduction of Bipartisan DATA Act in House and Senate

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 21, 2013) – [The Data Transparency Coalition](#), the only group unifying the technology industry in support of federal data reform, today applauded the simultaneous introduction in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate of the bipartisan [Digital Accountability and Transparency Act \(DATA Act\) of 2013](#). The DATA Act, which was first introduced in 2011 by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and passed the House last year, would open the U.S. federal government's spending data by establishing government-wide data standards and requiring the publication of the executive branch's grants, contracts, and internal expenditures in transaction-level detail. The new proposal is being cosponsored in the House by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and in the Senate by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH).

"Advocates for government transparency, crusaders against waste and fraud, and Big Data industry boosters all have reasons to celebrate today," said Hudson Hollister, executive director of the Data Transparency Coalition. "For the first time, we have a nearly-identical proposal embraced by both parties and both houses of Congress to open federal spending data through standardization and publication. Last Thursday at the DATA Demo Day, our industry showed how the DATA Act would empower Big Data analytics to oversee federal spending, cut compliance costs by automating manual reporting tasks, and help citizens see exactly how their money is spent. We look forward to working with the House and Senate to ensure that this proposal is quickly heard by the respective committees, passed by the full chambers, and sent to President Obama's desk."

The DATA Act's reintroduction comes five days after the first-ever Congressional DATA Demo Day, at which twenty-five leading tech companies showed how their products could use federal spending data – once it is fully standardized and published by the DATA Act – to illuminate waste and fraud, automate compliance for grantees and contractors, and deliver accountability to citizens.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is expected to consider the DATA Act at a committee meeting tomorrow.

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

large companies such as Teradata Corporation and RR Donnelley, and smaller start-ups such as Level One Technologies, BrightScope, and StockSmart. For more information, visit <http://datacoalition.org/>.

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